

Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron



Now Hear This!

Winter 2007

www.pbsps.org

◀ Commander's Corner ▶



What a great time to be active in the Squadron. It's been an exciting time since our last edition. We have logged many accomplishments and had some fun doing it. We are making progress toward the goals laid out in the action plan. Here is an overview:

Communication

The process of updating contact information on the roster is complete. Our volunteers have attempted to personally contact each member to review the information on record. If you have not received a call, there is a problem! PLEASE contact me so I can get the updated information to our secretary Ron Rowland. We use email extensively to supplement mailings. If you have email and are not receiving information and updates from me on a regular basis, you should send me an email to update my mailing list. Additionally, Arlan Martin, our Information Technology Chairman, has been successful in acquiring an improved Web address. You can now find our site at www.pbsps.org

Membership Involvement

I am particularly please to report progress in this area. We have several people who have agreed to take on some responsibilities this year. Bette Norris will be our Public Relations Officer, Skip Lang has agreed to be our Ensign Correspondent. Gary Winders & Dorie Meltreder will be helping Larry Sherwood with the Fort Point & Wooden Boat School rendezvous, and Judy Crone will be serving as squadron historian. Judy has also accepted the nomination as District 19 Secretary.

Activities

We are well into the planning process for both boating and land events for next season. 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. Two important upcoming events are the Founders Day Dinner, where we nominate and vote on officers, and the Change of Watch, which is when the new leadership is sworn in.

Orientation

I am excited to announce the completion of our new orientation program and handbook. Kathy Mastbeth has done an outstanding job in creating this material. The program describes 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. The handbook will be published on our web site. We are still in need of people to present this one hour program on an ongoing basis. If you can help, please contact Kathy.

Training & Education

Again I say WOW! We had 3 boating classes graduate in November. An Operations Training class took place in Ellsworth. We have established a partnership with the Mid Coast Squadron to offer JN starting in January. Seamanship will also be offered in January. AP will start in February. We really need help with implementing the new seminar program!

Remember Power of One – Call someone and get them involved!

Rob Crone, Interim Commander

★★★★

PBSPS 2006 Bridge

Commander: Cdr. Robert Crone, AP
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NHT Editor: Lt Evelyn Rowland, P
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Computer Services Update

A few enhancements to our web site worth noting have taken place during 2006. A vessel safety check web site has been created which identifies our local squadron Vessel Examiner's and provides a link to the National registrar as well

The lending library web page has been updated with a new list of books and an assortment of manuals, charts and such that are available to squadron members.

A visitor counter has been added to our web site home page. This will give us an idea of the number of "hits" or times that our web site is accessed. The counter merely counts the number of hits on the site and does not distinguish between a visitor and squadron member.

Most importantly in my opinion, a short cut or a new domain name has been established for easy reference and association with our squadron's website address. Now you can merely type in "pbsps.org" for the URL address, press the 'enter' key and the rest is done for you. This will make it much easier to access our website, easier to remember and to include on mailings, hand-outs, business cards, etc.

Lt. Arlan Martin AP (Computer Systems Chairman)

Operations Training

On November 11, 2006 a group of 11 people from our squadron participated in an Operations Training class. The program was a joint effort arranged by Kathy Mastbeth our Squadron Education Officer and Jeff Sawyer our Administrative Officer and OT program Chairman. It was conducted at Hancock County Technical Center in Ellsworth.

The class instructor was P/C William Bergen of the Aroostook Valley Squadron. Bill is also the District 19 Administrative Officer and is in charge of Operations Training for the District. He did a great job in making the class fun and interesting.

Please join in congratulating the following people for completing the course:

- Jeffrey E. Sawyer
- Walter J Harris Jr.
- John F. Mastbeth
- Ronald H. Rowland
- Evelyn S. Rowland
- Robert Crone
- David B. Field
- Kathleen C. Mastbeth
- Jane E. (Bette) Norris
- Lawrence A. Sherwood
- Judith M. Crone

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Education Events January 2007

Happy New Year! 2007 promises to be an exciting time of educational opportunities for PBSPS members.

I am pleased to announce a very full schedule of classes for early 2007 with a few changes from our last edition of Now Hear This. (see below) The Seamanship class has been moved from Bucksport High School to Ellsworth High School.

The Boating class and Cruise Planning course formerly scheduled for Bucksport High School will now take place at Searsport High School. And, finally, the AP class scheduled for Wednesdays at EMCC had to be changed to Thursdays, Penobscot Hall, Room 424.

Tuesdays - January 16 – March 13 – Seamanship at Ellsworth High School, Room 219

Rob Crone and Kathy Mastbeth will be instructors for a **Seamanship** Class at Ellsworth 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.

Thursdays - February 8 – March 29 – Advanced Piloting Penobscot Hall Room 424, EMCC, Bangor

An Advanced Piloting class is scheduled to begin at Eastern Maine Community College, Hogan Road, Bangor, on Thursday, February 8 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 Room 219

The Squadron Boating course will begin on March 26, 1800 – 2000 in Room 219 with Kathy Mastbeth instructor.

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

This section of the Squadron Boating course will be led by Rob Crone 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 Searsport High School

Dick Noyes has volunteered to teach Cruise Planning at Searsport 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!)*



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*****EXCITING NEWS!!***
COMING in May 2007!!
THE USPS UNIVERSITY
SEMINARS**

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

On Board Weather Forecasting

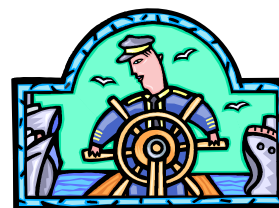
Tuesday May 15, Ellsworth High School, Room 219, 1800-2000

Changing weather conditions can convert what was a delightful day on the water into a real challenge. Forecasting what weather you will encounter is one of the top priorities for safe boating. Should we go out? When should we come in? These are important questions, but some fundamental understanding of the weather can help you make these decisions. That's what this seminar is all about.

While not a course in weather, this seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what conditions you will encounter where you are. By all means, a forecast is important. It will tell you what weather systems are headed your way, but they are challenged to tell exactly where and when conditions will change. Add your own observations and you have an extra edge. Add a couple of instruments and you can verify your observations. The seminar explains weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, using changing wind direction, temperature, and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts. The seminar includes an excellent book *Fundamentals of Weather* written by the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, and the McGraw-Hill *On Board Weather Forecasting* waterproof Captain's Quick Guide to take aboard your boat.

How to Use a Chart

Thursday May 17, Ellsworth High School, Room 219, 1800-2000



Charts provide information essential to your safety afloat. Even with GPS and electronic navigation, the chart is needed to tell you what is around you and between you and your intended destination. A system of symbols is used by cartographers to tell you what lies below the surface of the water and the depths of water. There is key information about visible

landmarks and navigation aids to help you navigate your course. The chart also is your link with the GPS via its grid scale, compass rose, and distance scales. A brief introduction to latitude and longitude provides insight to the operation of GPS receivers.

The NOAA Chart No. 1 is the quintessential reference to chart details, but is very difficult to understand. This seminar walks you through what you really need to know in an entertaining and interesting fashion, and provides you with a Maptech Waterproof flip-fold waterproof *Chart Symbols and On-the-Water Guide* to take along on the boat with you. In addition to showing you all about your chart, this seminar walks you through the essentials of laying out a safe course, steps to measure a course with the USPS plotter, and even a quick guide to the rules of the road.

Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio

Tuesday, May 22, 2007, Ellsworth High School, Room 219, 1800-2000

VHF radio is the mainstay of coastal communication and essential for emergency communications. Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is rapidly becoming a reality as more Coast Guard *Rescue 21 System* operations go live. Currently, the mid Atlantic coast is operational with DSC. The Gulf region will be operational early next year and all Cutters will be DSC equipped by next year.

DSC vastly simplifies and improves rescue and routine call signaling – making it easier to make a call while the system frees up Channel 16 for essential communications. However, you need to know how to use it. This seminar answers those needs and explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home. A handy waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's Quick Guide *Using VHF* is included with essential information that you should have aboard, which will explain to anyone on your crew how to use the radio.

Using GPS

Thursday May 24, 2007, Ellsworth High School, Room 219, 1800-2000

GPS has become a common tool for navigation. However using GPS on the water is distinctly different from a moving map display in your car. This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation which you will use. It then shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts which provide essential information about what is around you.

The seminar also shows you how to operate your GPS – what the buttons do, what the screens show, and how to access the functions you need. A handheld GPS is used

as the demonstration model, but all GPS receivers function similarly. By the time you have completed the seminar, you will be able to store waypoints into your GPS, activate them for navigation, and use GPS to keep you on a safe, pre-qualified course of your choosing. You'll also get some tips for choosing a GPS if you don't currently own one. You will get a waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's Quick Guide *Using GPS* to take aboard to remind you of the steps, or to show another of your crew how to use your GPS.

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.

**** Please contact Kathy Mastbeth for more information and to register for the seminars. Register early, there are a limited number of spaces available for each session.**

Respectfully submitted

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

PIPE THEM ABOARD

The Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron is pleased to have five new members join us since November, 2006. They are –

Robert D. Harbour Christine Urquhart
Skip M. Lang Benjamin Urquhart
Jack Ochtera

The Squadron welcomes them aboard.

PLAN ON FOUNDERS DAY PARTY

If you missed the Christmas Party you missed a good time. Great food, good times and a very interesting speaker were on the agenda. We also had five guests from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Our next gathering is Founders Day. This is a celebration to honor the founding of the United States Power Squadrons and its founders. The United States Power Squadrons was established in 1914 as part of the Boston Yacht Club and the first commander was Roger Upton. Come and hear more about our history.

We also elect our new Bridge officers. The new Bridge officers are then sworn in at the Change of Watch (COW) in March by the District Commander.

The Founders day gathering is 3 February at the Sea Dog, 1800 social hour and the meal at 1900. After the meal we will have a short program and the election of the new Bridge.

Our speaker comes from the National Weather Service Office in Caribou, ME.

Michael Fitzsimmons is a 1979 graduate of Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor's degree in Meteorology. He has served for over twenty years with the National Weather Service, in various forecasting positions.

For the past seven years, Michael has held the position of Lead Forecaster at the National Weather Service Office in Caribou, ME. He served as Marine Focal Point for the Caribou office during the program's development phase in 1999.

For the past year, Michael has assisted Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Tony Sturey with the warning program at the Caribou office.

Michael also has a strong interest in emergency communications. He holds an amateur radio license, Extra Class, and currently serves as Emergency Coordinator for Aroostook County for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

We had almost 50 members at the Christmas party; let's see if we can't beat that number for Founders Day. Full details will be on our web site at, www.pbsps.org I will need a count for the Sea Dog by 29 January. Please RSVP at 843-6605 or e-mail me at NIQJU@aol.com.

Thanks
P/C Lawrence A. Sherwood AP
Programs Chair



MINI SHIP'S-STORE REMINDER

The Mini Ship's-Store has three items to offer to Squadron members

Ensigns at \$20 each

Squadron Burgees at \$20 each and

"Skipper Saver" self-help manuals at \$10 each

The Squadron is willing to explore any other requests for new items, just contact one of the officers or Dick Jacobs Jacobs@maine.edu 866-4520.



New Maine Law Regulates PWCs

As of January 1, 2007 a new law is on the books in Maine dealing with PWCs. No one under 16 may operate a PWC, 16 and 17 year olds must be accompanied by an 18 year old or older OR have



passed a boating safety course. Our Squadron Boating course is approved by Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife for this purpose.



More on Personal Water Craft

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



From Bar Harbor Times, Dec. 21, 2006

"Boaters wishing to have an emergency rescue beacon aboard must have a digital 406 MHz model. The Jan. 1, 2007 date to stop using 121.5 MHz EPIRBs is in preparation for Feb. 1, 2009 when satellite processing of distress signals from all 121.5/243 MHz beacons will terminate. Following the termination date, only the 406MHz beacons will be detected by the International Cospas-Sarsat Satellite system..."

"the regulation applies to all Class A, B, and S 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs. It does not affect 121.5/243 MHz man-overboard devices..."



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Holiday Party

The Holiday Party was held on Friday December 15th at the Sea Dog restaurant in Bangor. The food and company were both excellent. As usual Larry Sherwood did a great job with the arrangements. Diane Bartholomew provided center pieces and with the help of Kathy & John Mastbeth and Judy Crone the festive room looked wonderful.

The most exciting part to me personally is to see people involved in our activities. The holiday party was particularly fun this year. There were 48 people in attendance, including five guests from the USCG Auxiliary.

Three of our newest members, Gary Winders, Skip Lang and Bob Harbour were sworn in, as we all reaffirmed our oath. It was great to see some of our longer term members at the dinner. Two people that we were particularly honored to see were Arthur Stevens (since 4/12/1950) with 56 years in the USPS, and Barbara Cardin (since 2/11/1969). Barbara was not only one of the early members of our squadron, she was one of the earlier women to gain membership. Her courage and perseverance paved the way for many others who followed.

Also of interest, was the fact that we had 5 Past Commanders in attendance: James E. Chandler AP (82-83); W. Tom Sawyer JN (98-99); Richard D. Crowe III, AP (00-01) Richard M. Jacobs, AP (04-05); and Lawrence A. Sherwood, AP (02-03 & 05). Combined with other seasoned members, there was a lot of history in that room. Dick Jacobs and Larry Sherwood accepted the District 19 Growth Award, recognizing their outstanding leadership resulting in us being the only squadron to grow last year.


The evening culminated with a great presentation from our guest speaker, Barry Acker of the Landing School in Arundel. The Rowlands arranged for Barry and his wife, Janet, to join us. They were both extremely interesting and welcome guests. Barry delivered a wonderful presentation on the program at the Landing School.



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JUST FOR FUN! OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 - 5:30 SAT 9 - 4

WERU 89.9/102.9 FM "Boat Talk"

On Tuesday, January 9, Kathy Mastbeth and Rob Crone were guests on the radio program, Boat Talk on WERU. They spoke about the upcoming public boating courses PBSPS will be offering and about the VSC program. If you would like to listen to the program you may hear it at www.boattalk.org.



Founders' Day Election

The following members have been nominated to the slate and of course, nominations will be accepted from the floor. I trust that you will be there to support and enjoy the event. P/C Dick Jacobs AP

Commander: **Cdr Rob Crone AP**
Executive Officer: **Lt/C John Mastbeth AP**
Administrative Officer: **1st Lt Ron Papa AP**
Education Officer: **Lt/C Kathy Mastbeth P**
Secretary: **Vacant**
Treasurer: **P/C Larry Sherwood AP**

Executive Committee: **Lt Howard Towle S**
Executive Committee: **Bob Allen S**
Executive Committee: **David Field P**

Assistant Administrative Officer: **Lt Jeff Barnes**
Assistant Education Officer: **P/Lt/C Jay Johnson AP**

Assistant Secretary: **Vacant**
Assistant Treasurer: **Vacant**

Nominating Committee: **P/C Dick Jacobs AP**
P/Lt/C Jay Johnson AP
Lt Lew Phillips JN



Hand Painted Floor Cloth Raffle

Tickets will be available at the Founders' Day Dinner and Change of Watch for the hand-painted floor cloth pictured below. The drawing will be held at COW.



This durable canvas floor cloth is 32"X40" and would look great in your home, or even aboard your boat, with its images of the USPS ensign and PBSPS burgee.

If you can't make it to either of the dinners and would like to purchase tickets, please contact John Mastbeth: jmastbeth@hypernet.com or call at 359-8015.

All About Ranks and Grades.

When people join the Squadron, they are sometimes confused about the letters that precede and follow members' names. Below is your quick reference to what those letters mean:

Rank: Rank designation precedes the member's name. This refers to what official position the member holds in the squadron.

Lt - Lieutenant – held by appointed officers; Librarian, Now Hear This editor, Safety officer, Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Chairman.

P/Lt – Past Lieutenant – has served as Lieutenant, but no longer holds that office.

1st /Lt – First Lieutenant - held by assistant educational officer, assistant secretary, and assistant treasurer.

Lt/C – Lieutenant Commander – held by Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, Education Officer, Treasurer, Secretary.

P/Lt/C – Past Lieutenant Commander – has served as Lieutenant Commander, but no longer holds that office.

C or **Cdr** – Commander (Only one person in the Squadron holds this rank for his/her term of office)

P/C – Past Commander – has served as Commander, but no longer holds that office.

D/Lt/C – District Lieutenant Commander – held by district bridge.

Grade: Grade designation follows the member's name. This refers to educational Achievement.

S – Upon successful completion of Seamanship, the first advanced course, the member uses S after his/her name.

P – Upon successful completion of Piloting as well as Seamanship, the member is entitled to use the letter P after his/her name.

AP – Upon successful completion of Advanced Piloting as well as Seamanship and Piloting, the member uses AP after his/her name.

JN - Junior Navigator – When a member has successfully completed the Junior Navigation course, as well as Seamanship, Piloting, and Advanced Piloting, he/she then uses JN.

N – Navigator- After successful completion of Navigation as well as all other advanced courses, the member uses N after his/her name.

When a member has completed at least three elective courses as well as AP, JN, or N he/ she underlines the AP, JN, or N.

Remember these dates:

✓ Saturday, Feb 3 –
Founders Day at the Sea Dog
6:00PM

✓ Saturday, Mar 10 –
Change of Watch – Sea Dog
6:00PM



★★★★

From the Readers Digest, September, 2003:

Dead ahead, through the pitch-black night, the captain sees a light on a collision course with his ship.

He sends a signal: "Change your course ten degrees east."

"Change yours ten degrees west," comes the reply .

The captain responds, "I'm a United States Navy captain! Change your course, sir!"

"I'm a seaman second class," the next message reads. "Change your course, sir."

The captain is furious. "I'm a battleship! I'm not changing course!"

"I'm a Lighthouse!"





*Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron
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*Remember to Always Wear Your Lifejacket
Happy and SAFE Boating!!!*

Visit: www.pbsps.org