

Choptank Currents

A Publication of the Cambridge Sail and Power Squadron
Email: cambridgesailandpowersquadron@gmail.com - Ph: 443-294-3481

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United States Power Squadrons®

We Are
America's Boating Club®



NEXT MEETING: Holiday meeting (rsvp by 05 Dec) to be held at deerpond, 5211 Brooks Rd., Woolford, MD, Saturday, 08 Dec. at 1300 - 1630 (1:00 – 4:30 PM).



CURRENTS HIGHLIGHTS – In This Issue!

- ◆ Day Marks
- ◆ Comments from the Commander & Administrative
- ◆ Safety – Promoting Safe Boating
- ◆ Education – ABC Course completed
- ◆ On-The-Water – Boat winterization



Day Marks - Happy
Birthday to our Dec. Shipmates:
Patty Kaczmarek

Add your name to the Birthday list__
contact
cambridgesailandpowersquadron@gmail.com or call CSPA Ph 443.294.3481



SEA VESTER THE BON VIVANT SAGE OF D/5

SAYS: Just a few blocks on the calendar, another Christmas date is inked in. May yours be a very Merry Christmas, hopefully better, well at least as good as the best one you can remember! Be sure to remember, why we celebrate that Birthday! My best wishes to you and yours for a great holiday, ad a super year ahead! *kjh*

W. TOBY PROTA, the old seafaring Curmudgeon Says: A boat is a thing of beauty in the eyes of its skipper, while to others it is a "hole in the water, in which the owner dumps lots of cash!" You know, many of us think this is the same thing with taxes sent to the Federal Government? But at least with an owned boat, you can love it or leave it, at your choosing! The true difference is that the Washington crew is an anchor around our necks, who operate with faulty navigation lights, and don't know how to row the vessel out of trouble. And, worse yet, "twitter" away, thinking they are the Captain of the ship! *kjh*

Comments from the Commander – Cdr. John O'Reilly, JN-CN

I have a love/hate relationship with the month of December. I love that there are lots of opportunities to gather with friends and family and celebrate many things. I hate that it is usually the first month that I am not boating, and that it contains the day with the least amount of daylight. If I want to put a positive spin on the winter solstice, it is that it is the turning point for the days to start getting longer, which makes me happy. The wintertime is a great time to think about trips you want to plan for next year, or catch up on some reading, or take a class. If you need an excuse to head south, there is the USPS Annual meeting in Orlando from 18 Feb-24 Feb, where you can converse about boats with about 600 other members. Please visit the website " https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetinginfo.php?mtg_id=22 " for more information. Looking a little bit further, the District 5 Spring conference will be in



Ocean city on 28-31 March, so save the date!

Stay warm this winter and I hope to see you all at the Holiday party!

John

Administrative Department – Cdr. John O'Reilly, JN-CN

December Holiday Party/Meeting

The holiday party/meeting will be held at Deerpond. It will be from 1300 to 1630 on Saturday, 8 December. The address is 5211 Brooks Road, Woolford, MD which is located about 12 miles west of Cambridge just off Route 16 (Taylors Island Road). Those members that attended the Fishing Creek raft-up last summer may recall that Deerpond is located on a peninsula extending into the Little Choptank. Guests are asked to park out on the road and walk in; as the driveway has very limited parking. For those unable to walk the 300 ft. driveway, feel free to drive down the driveway, drop off passengers and go back out to Brooks Rd where there is plenty of parking.

We will each bring a dish, and we're collecting toys for children again this year. Beverages are BYOB. We will have a slate of officers for next year's bridge presented. If you have any willingness to run for an office, please let Jim Kidd know soon; so you can be put on the ballot. Please let Julie know or C/SPS know by e-mail or phone as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Cathy would also like to have an idea of who's bringing what, so that would be appreciated by 5 December.

You will find some local driving directions to Deerpond under the events calendar later in this newsletter.

Safety Committee - Lt James C. Harvey, AP and P/C Nancy L. Harvey, P - Co-Chairs

On one early trip, we were crossing Buzzards Bay and noticed that our compass and Loran did not agree as to our course, by about 40 degrees. This is when we pulled into Cuddy Hunk Island and learned about Captain Eldridge's Tides and Currents. Our compass was telling the direction the boat was pointing, but the Loran was seeing our course over ground was quite different.



While heading through Delaware Bay we discovered we were taking on water through the water pump. We shut down the engine and sailed back to the nearest port. This is where we discovered a river leading to Greenwich, I shall call it the snake river as it was all S curves, and not charted. We were able to replace the O

ring in the water pump.

When you hear a large clanking noise in the engine compartment, you investigate the problem, even if you are traversing the C&D Canal. Officially there is no anchoring; but with the current and the noise we had to drop anchor on the edge. We found that the bolt and nut that holds the alternator on the engine block had separated.

When you run into pea soup for in the Erie Canal perhaps it is permissible to tie off to a marker buoy. When the fog rose we could see another boat tied to the next buoy. In New York Bay, we heard the fishing boats playing their radios on their bows to announce their positions.

Going into Manasquan Bay off the NJ coast you need to watch the currents and the trains. There is a train bridge that whistles as it is closing and goes fast. You must go through this bridge to get to docks or anchoring area. There is a great current there. The first time we were told to turn into the slip and put it in full reverse and the manager would catch us. The next time we came in on our own and popped a fender as we hit the dock.

Ever hear of Hell Gate? It is the convergence of the Harlem River and the East River. We went through with a 25 foot sailboat with an outboard. Traveling with the tidal current but against a 25 knot wind, this all together produces waves in all directions. It can turn 50 footers around, but with an outboard it produces a series of wheeeees as the prop kept coming out of the water.

All of these are just examples of the need to check weather, know your area or study the available information, know first aid, take classes and assist where you can, but things will always happen. As we paddle or sail or motor and spend time on the water, things happen. Many of us keep a journal of our days, our trips and our adventures, as one should. It is time for all to take a look at your experiences and jot down a few things pointing out the safety hazards or safety features or safety of **an event as it occurred. We need you to write up your stories. Have you ever been sailing when...?**

Educational Department - Lt/C Wayne Rigby, JN, Squadron Educational Officer

Education Dept. has finished the fall ABC with 4 of 5 students finishing the class and passing the exam.



I was asked what books we have available for small group/self-study. We have the following in the SEO Library and members can borrow them. There would be a \$10 testing fee and the book would have to be returned. I can always order books from USPS if you want your own copies for reference. We have the following current editions available:



Photo by Nancy

- Boat Handling email version 2018
- Seamanship 2015 (and two 2007) (being replaced by Boat Handling but still current)
- Adv. Piloting 2011 (2 copies)
- Cruising and Cruise Planning 2013 (2 copies)
- Engine Maintenance (2011)
- Sail (2009) We do plan to teach this in the spring
- Weather 2008 (3 copies)

If anyone wants to do self-study, let me know and I can bring the material to the Christmas Party; first come/first serve. Hope to teach Seamanship in the winter but need a lead instructor. Place and time open for discussion. We will plan to teach ABC again after the Feb. Outdoor Show. I will announce some definite dates by Jan. We plan to teach SAIL again in the early spring with on the water training in May or June. I'm easy to get a hold of. Contact CSPA at 443.294.3481 or cambridgesailandpowersquadron@gmail.com

Wayne Rigby - Squadron Education Officer.

Off-The-Water – Skipper Bob, Editor, P

Many folks that still have boats know that November is time to put the boat away for the winter. Since winterizing my boat, a 34 ft trawler, means lifting it out of the water and winterizing all the systems, it's a carefully planned endeavor designed to beat the first frost. Most of the systems I winterized at the dock. This year I invited some neighbors, who I knew were looking to buy a boat, along for the ride with Cathy and me. They enjoyed the experience and the weather and tides were mostly cooperative although the water got a little choppy on the way over. With a call ahead while underway, we got to the marina in time to pull onto the waiting travel lift. With the boat constrained by the lift straps but still in the water, I closed the intake thru-hull and connected a tank of winterizing solution to the engine raw water intake hose and started the warm engine running it until the solution came out the exhaust after which the boat was raised. While the hull was being power washed, we all went over to Palm Beach Willie's to enjoy lunch knowing the boat would be transported over to its winter resting place while we ate lunch. I am always sad on the last day of boating but at least I enjoyed it with friends this year and now rest easy knowing that winterizing done right, early enough, assures a safe commissioning day next season. Until next year's 'On-The-water'!



Bob Bilodeau - CSPA Newsletter Editor.



Contributions by members of bits, pieces, books to read, news, old and new stuff, ideas, reminders, and a host of items for one to peruse! Give kjh a call with your input, thoughts and info.

JACKET JOURNAL: Remember, you never know, when it's overboard you will go __ nor what awaits you, when your head is covered with water and doesn't show! The only thing people will know, if not again be ensconced on board, is that you were one dumb so-in-so, because a life jacket on your body you did not bestow! Be selfish, give yourself a "Swimming Chance" __ hug a Life Jacket, so after a dunking, there is still an opportunity for "Romance!" kjh

From an old Birthday List: Out of 61 squadron members (at that time) 21 (after a dozen years) are still members. *One-third*, and in these days and times, I would guess (for most organizations) that is an interesting statistic. We all are a dozen years older, and we weren't kids then, only John O, can still see 50 in the future, the rest of us, are long past (or let's say past the half century mark). This is not to make anyone "blue," but rather just remark on how a great organization like our Power and Sail Squadron, makes staying "aboard" worthwhile. Don't you think it's time that we all try to recruit a "fleet" of new

members, to enjoy what we still do (sans owning a boat perhaps?). The potential is out there, hopefully just waiting for some “old farts” like us to invite them in! No mandate, just an idea to ensure a future Cambridge Squadron! *Kjh*

From: “Santa’s Respite” *Santa* is a boater, Of that I am quite sure, We know he sails across the sky, With Reindeers, four and four! He is a navigator; using stars he takes his clue, from his home in the North Pole! A course he plots, to you and me! He crosses every land, Every Ocean, of varied hue! And, watches down below, for the loneliest boat to view! And once one is chosen, His sleigh then touches ground! Santa walks to the vessel, the loneliest one he’s found! He spends some precious moments, with his hand upon the bow, and assures that sad, sad vessel, it’s alone for only now! **“Come Spring, he says, you’ll be afloat, on waters of aqua blue, so spread the word around my friend, I love all boats, that’s true!”** Then off to climb upon his sleigh, for duties that night, require, so those footprints in the snow you see, are, from Santa’s, own desire! Perhaps you have a Question? And will never truly know! Until, across the heavens you hear:” **Merry Christmas, Ho, Ho, Ho!”** (kjh 2015)

Course Change: If you think you know all about boating, then you are not thinking at all! If you think you don’t have a responsibility to and for all that on the water go __ you have missed, the seeds of safety, the U.S. Power Squadron, in its educational seeds in you it attempted to sow. You are your “brother’s keeper,” and unfortunately, this is the state of the world today, we have gotten to know! There is fun in learning more about boating, and the courses available to you through USPS are a great way, to grow. Try them, I guarantee you will like them. You might even find, it is worthwhile; to put other things aside, to become an even better person, and who knows how many will applaud the pride you won’t be able to hide!

Logo Follow-up – During our November Squadron meeting, our new logo was discussed and voted on. A proportionally squared design was approved, with the following changes to the original proposed logo shown below: (1) America’s Boating Club logo on top, (2) “Cambridge, MD” replacing “For Boaters, By Boaters” in the middle and (3) the Squadron burgee below that. John O. was tasked with producing the design on paper. We would then take the design to an embroidering shop in Cambridge to solicit their input. Based on what they recommend, one pocket polo shirt with the logo embroidered above the pocket would be produced so we could all evaluate it. *rdb*



Event Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place	Comment
8-Dec	1300 – 1630 (1:00 – 4:30 pm)	Holiday Party Meeting	“Deerpond”, 5211 Brooks Road, Woolford, MD	BYOB, Bring a dish, RSVP by 12/5 – Let CSPA (443.294.1485, cambridgesailandpowersquadron@gmail.com) know if you plan to come.
17-Jan	1830-2030 (6:30-8:30 pm)	Monthly membership meeting	tbd	



Also CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, you don't need to be a member to view it.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cambridge-Sail-and-Power-Squadron/207102012634662>

Note: For those newer members who have never received the hard copy, “snail-mail”, version of the newsletter – Back in the old days when everyone received the newsletter by regular mail, we started including a member provided photo on the front of the mailing envelope and it was well received. When we switched to the e-version of the newsletter, several expressed concern that they would miss the “envelope photo”, so it is included on this “extra” page in the e-version only. (A few e-mail challenged members and the D/5 newsletter reviewers still receive it by regular mail, thus we still have an envelope photo for each issue).

If you have a photo that you would like inserted in a future issue, send it to the editor (cambridgesailandpowersquadron@gmail.com) – rdb



Photo provided by P/C Nancy L. Harvey, P

Executive/Administrative

Commander: Cmdr. John W. O'Reilly, JN-IN
Executive Officer- Vacant
Administrative Officer - Vacant
Educational: Lt/C Wayne E. Rigby, JN
Secretary: Lt/C Julie R. Rigby, AP
Treasurer Lt/C George W. McComas Jr., AP
Assist. SEO Lt George Seifert, SN-IN
Assist. Secretary: Vacant
Past Commander: P/C Nancy L. Harvey, P
Executive Cmte :P/Lt/C Erna Hammerton, AP
Executive Cmte: P/C Robert Hammerton, AP
Executive Cmte: Larry Davies, AP
Executive Cmte: James Kidd Jr., SN

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Committee Chairs

Audit - Lt Mike Jones
Chaplain – Janet L. Fox
Co-op Charting - Open
Membership - P/C Phil Fairall, AP
Nominations - Lt Jim Harvey, AP
Newsletter, Editor – Robert Bilodeau, P
Newsletter, Contributor – P/C Ken J Hesterberg (kjh)
Rules - Lt John Leffen, P
Safety - Lt Nancy L. Harvey, P and
Lt James C. Harvey, AP
Supply - Lt Erna Hammerton, AP
Vessel Safety Check - P/C George McCOMAS Jr., AP
Vessel Safety Check – P/C Dan Cada, AP