



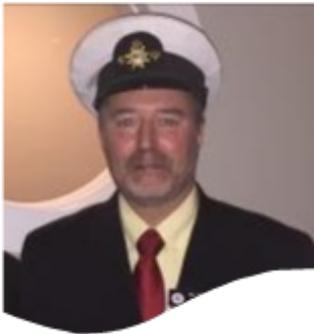
America's Boating Club of Greenwich - District 2

<http://www.greenwichsps.org>

Volume 83, No. 1

NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2018



Hello Fellow boaters,

THERE IS A VENUE CHANGE FOR JANUARY 17! Due to renovations at the Greenwich Boat & Yacht Club, we will now meet at Mianus River Boat & Yacht Club, 98 Strickland Road, Cos Cob.

Our February 21 event will be at the usual Greenwich Boat &YC.

We had a great year in 2017 and I thank all of you who participated in our classes, monthly speaker events, parties and on-the-water activities. I want to especially thank our Executive Committee, who put forth a great effort all year providing members with the best; well done! Their names are listed later in the newsletter. We get a lot done with a few key people and I extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to become involved; with a few extra hands we can accomplish even more.

Because of our success in 2017, we have created a Giving Committee that is charged with looking into how we can further help the boating community. Let me know if you want to join it.

Please watch out for our eBlasts on our upcoming classes. We expect the Safe Boating classes May 5 and June 9 to be at capacity and we could always use a hand at registration, grading tests or teaching breakout sessions. It's a great way to meet new boaters.

During this 'down time' I encourage everyone to review their boating goals for the upcoming year, whether it be to learn more (reading, taking a class, or watching YouTube!) or to plan any equipment purchases you'll need in the spring. It's always surprising how quickly the boating season arrives, so be prepared!

2018 will be another growth year for our squadron and I hope to see each of you enjoying yourselves and sharing your knowledge and experiences with other members; we have some great speakers lined up so make sure you keep the 3rd Wednesday of each month open so you can enjoy them.

As always, please contact us at GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com with questions or ideas. Fair winds and following seas.

Commander Bill

Online Learning

Everyone knows that the United States Power Squadrons offers a full suite of boating courses ranging from basic boating, to advanced courses to a variety of electives and seminars. But did you know, that we also offer regularly scheduled webinars on specialized topics taught by leading national experts? These webinars are customized by the instructor to provide the latest, up-to-date information on the topic.



Here's the USPS webinar schedule for 2018:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| o 20 March | Emergencies On Board |
| o 8 May | Crossing Borders |
| o 26 June | Hurricane Preparations for Boaters |
| o 25 September | Living Onboard While Cruising |
| o 18 November | Running Inlets and Wave Technology |

Traditionally, there has been a nominal charge for these webinars. However, I understand that the 2018 lineup will be complementary to members.

Registration is required. You may signup at the Beyond Boating area of the USPS website www.beyondboating.org under the Online Boating Education link. The above schedule is not yet posted, but it should be shortly.

I encourage you to take advantage of this additional education opportunity. Happy and safe boating in 2018. Andy Cummings, JN



News from the Safety Officer

Do You Have a Kidde Fire Extinguisher?

In November of this year, Kidde, the most popular manufacturer of fire extinguishers for homes and recreational vehicles, announced a recall of over 40 million units involving 134 models. A defect in the plastic handle or button may cause the handle or button to break thus making the fire extinguisher inoperable. Chances are good that you own a Kidde product. If so, here is what you need to do. The off season is a good time to address this issue so that you will be ready for the spring.

Several sources of information exist, but I find the company's own website www.kidde.com to be the most straightforward. On this site, click the "PRODUCT SAFETY RECALL" link and follow the instructions. The first step is to determine whether your unit is affected. You will need your model number and serial number. Then, if your unit is affected you need to complete a simple questionnaire and Kidde will send you a replacement. You may also call Kidde at 800-268-



2344. Kidde is asking consumers to keep the old unit until the new one arrives and then return it according to instructions that will come with the replacement. The company is in the best position to recycle the old units or dispose of them in a proper manner. So, please return yours; it is the right thing to do.



Kidde plastic handle fire extinguishers

Calendar

For all details, contact GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com

Note some events will begin at 7 pm (not at 7.30 pm as in the past)



January 17 7.30 pm Viva la Cuba! Presentation by Captain Joy Sherman at Mianus River Boat & Yacht Club, 98 Strickland Rd, Cos Cob.

February 21 7 pm Vive la Difference! Captain Eric Knott, Fellow of Royal Institute of Navigation, Safety Manager of Moran Towing and Stamford Harbormaster delves into how boating varies between the U.S. and Europe. At Greenwich Boat & Yacht Club, 9 Grass Island, Greenwich.



March: Change of Watch

April 7 & 8: Greenwich Boat Show, 49 River Road, Cos Cob

April 18: 7 pm Speaker Meeting at Greenwich Boat & Yacht Club

May 5: All-day safe boating class, Greenwich Police HQ

May 20 - 26: National Safe Boating Week. Contact us to attend the presentation of the Town Proclamation by First Selectman Peter Tesei

June 9: All-day safe boating class, Greenwich Police HQ

Spring: Annual Kickoff Party to the Boating Season - chez Cummings.

Summer: Tuesday night cruises, lobster party, raftups

What is Seamanship?

"Good seamanship is defined as having sufficient intelligence, experience, and foresight to avoid circumstances demanding same."

Recent photos from the end of year - Jeanine Giddings enjoying her Tiffany thank you gift for being Harbor Light editor, SoundWaters AGM, Kim Zeh's view of NYC as she delivers a boat to the Chesapeake Bay, and P/C Nancy York having a final paddle in front of the Chimes Building, Greenwich Cove.



Holiday Party

"The sign of a good party is how many things are missing at the end" says Commander Bill. This year there were two different earrings, an iPad, a pink iPhone, a poinsettia plant and a few other things missing. Yes, it was a good party - with over 60 boaters and friends congregating at the beautiful Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club. The traditional ham and turkey and all the trimmings were enhanced by gourmet appetizers a la Vicki and Janis, and outstanding 'drizzled' desserts by Lynn. Raffle baskets were coveted by all. Thanks go to many members for all items, and particularly to Bob and Terri Henry.



HOLIDAY PARTY



THREE SHEETS

"Sheet" derives from Old English "scéata" meaning the lower corner of a sail. In sailing, a sheet is a line (rope, cable or chain) used to control the movable corner(s) (clews) of a sail.

An inebriated person is often said to be a certain number of sheets to the wind. Uncertain whether this is three or four, we suggest that the expression comes from sailing. Many have drawn this connection, because the line, or rope, controlling the trim of a sail on a sailboat is called a sheet.

The true origin of "three sheets to the wind" was disclosed by a Nantucket sailor. Four sheets to the wind are O.K. because they are balanced. So are two sheets now and then. But three? Never.

The old Dutch-style windmill on Nantucket Island in Massachusetts, which is still grinding cornmeal for the tourists, has four wooden vanes to which are attached four sails – or more properly, sheets. If the miller leaves one off, only three are presented to the wind.

The mechanism is then severely out of balance, and in a fresh breeze the entire structure of the mill goes into a violent and potentially destructive shudder, evoking the image of a staggering drunk.

Letting go a sailboat's sheet to flap in the wind usually gets the skipper out of trouble by causing the boat to come up into the wind on an even keel – the opposite of the metaphor intended.

ROBERT A. DI CURCIO Nantucket, MA

Officers of America's Boating Club of Greenwich

Commander: Bill Vernon, AP

Treasurer: Bob Henry, SN

Educational Officer: Andy Cummings, JN

Secretary: Karen Griffin

Admin Officer: Vicki Malara, S

Asst. Admin: Janis Stahlhut

George Dey JN, George Friend AP, Rich Malloy SN, Susan Ryan JN

Ocean sailors Dawn Riley of Oakcliff Sailing (below) and Dr. Kim Zeh of the Greenwich



Squadron explain how women can get into blue water sailing. They appeared in Gary Jobson's video shown at Riverside YC.



The opinions expressed by contributors to The Harbor Light are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or official policies of the United States Power Squadrons.