



THE HARBOR LIGHT



l to r above Co. Commanders Andy Cummings and Howard Sklar

Report from Andy Cummings, JN

As the calendar year winds down, I want to reflect upon the successes of America's Boating Club of Greenwich. I have previously written about our events of the spring and summer, and I will not repeat these. What I want to focus on is the overall state of our squadron. In a word, our squadron is strong. Indeed, this is a status for which your Co-Commanders, Howard and I, take no individual credit. This is a result of the talent and dedication of many and of course the participation of you, our members.

First, our membership is steady. We currently have approximately 200 members. Of course we lose members to natural attrition, but we add new members on a regular basis - about 24 each year. There are two reasons for our steady membership: a quality education program and attractive membership events (and of course the successful promotion of the two).

Secondly, our financial condition is sound. With ample reserves, we will finish the current fiscal year substantially on budget. This is due to many years of good fiscal management, which includes running programs and events within budget, and the contributions of our educational programs. Having a quality educational program, however, is not enough. Courses need to be priced appropriately, operated within budget, and of course promoted in a manner that achieves scale. As a team, we have done all this.

Our financial success has enabled us to subsidize several of our popular events, such as the summer clam bake, the holiday party and the Change of Watch. Also subsidized are our monthly speaker events which are free. It also enables us to invest in our community. This year gave a total budgeted amount of \$3,000 to Sound Waters, Ship 6, the Greenwich High School sailing team and the Greenwich police scholarship fund.

Finally, our members are engaged. Our events are well attended. We have attracted some top-notch speakers who have willingly and enthusiastically donated their time. We get good speakers, in part, because we have a good audience. So, please continue to attend our speaker events as much as possible. Also, if you have an idea for a speaker, please reach out to any member of the Executive Committee. Don't feel that if you make a suggestion you need to run the event. Every good event starts with a single idea and your ideas are a significant contribution.

And on a related note, America's Boating Club of Greenwich was again the recipient of a pair of prestigious awards. Our squadron collectively and Susan Ryan personally received awards for the third highest number vessel safety examination of all squadrons nationally. These safety examination represent a substantial benefit to our boating community and help to ensure our local boaters are in compliance with safety requirements.

We wish all happy and health holidays and a terrific new year.

Report from the Educational Officer, Susan Ryan, JN

Earlier this month Alan and Arlene Karpas from the Maryland Safety Institute were good enough to give the American Heart Association CPR/AED class specifically designed for boaters. Sixteen students from the local boating community to take advantage of this - three of whom needing the certification for their Captain's License. In the photos at the end of the newsletter you'll see Old Greenwich Yacht Club Waterfront Director Captain Craig Burry reviving the mannequin.

Our summer and fall activities have attracted some new members. Welcome all! You will have received a letter from Co-Commander Howard Sklar mentioning many of our events and we look forward to seeing you at these over the winter. I realize that quite a few of our members have not taken our safe boating class and yet are coming aboard our sunset sails. These sails are so much more enjoyable the more knowledgeable you are, so I encourage you to sign up for our March 16th class. It's all day - and broken up into distinct half-hours, making for a dynamic day learning a range of subjects making you a safer boater.

We have a fine team of 'Breakout Instructors' who each take a group of 5 - 6 students to go over the material so well covered by our lead instructor Andy Cummings and produced by our National Educational team.

Upcoming classes are:

- **Jan. 23** 7 - 9pm Greenwich Police Headquarters, over multiple Tuesday evenings.

Marine Navigation [Register here](#) \$130 members, \$230 non members.

- **Mar. 16 from 9am - 5pm at Greenwich Police Headquarters, 11 Bruce Place, Greenwich.**

Safe Boating Class [Register here](#) \$95 (family discounts available.)

- **Jun 22** from 9am - 12noon at Mianus River Boat & Yacht Club, 98 Strickland. Cos Cob.

Partner in Command [Register here](#) \$50 members \$90 non members.

Stamford Ledge Lighthouse

Many of us have passed the Stamford Ledge lighthouse over the years, and if you are like me, you wonder what I could do to help save the magnificent light before it falls into the Sound.

Over 140 years ago, due to a local petition demanding a lighthouse to signal the dangerous approach to Stamford Harbor, Congress appropriated funds, and the lighthouse was built and placed in service in 1882. The lighthouse remained in service for 71 years until the Coast Guard discontinued its use as an official aid to navigation in 1953. Over the next 27 years, ownership of the lighthouse was transferred multiple times between the US government, individuals, and corporations with the hope of creating a landmark. In 1982, the lighthouse became privately owned. More recently, several uncoordinated attempts to acquire the lighthouse became consolidated by forming a non-profit organization, The **Stamford Harbor Lighthouse Project**, culminating in the lighthouse's acquisition.

The project has four phases:

- **Acquisition** - Fulfill the financial terms agreed upon with the private seller.
- **Restoration** - Restore the Lighthouse's foundation, structure, and systems to bring them back to their original state.
- **Environment** - Rehabilitate submerged lands around the lighthouse, improve water quality, protect wildlife populations, and mitigate damage from climate change.
- **Future** - Create an endowment fund to ensure ongoing and future maintenance, environmental research, and education programs.

It is exciting to know that within the next two years, the lighthouse will return as a shining beacon preserved for future generations. The long-term goal is for the restored Stamford Harbor Lighthouse to become an educational and environmental center. Additionally, the project will partner with SoundWaters to institute education and research programs that benefit the environment and our community.

At long last, we have a path to channel our desire to preserve and protect the lighthouse for future generations. As you contemplate year-end donations, I hope you will consider donating to safeguard our lighthouse's future. [Donate here](#)

Please follow the Stamford Harbor Lighthouse Project link for more detailed information on the project and its history. <https://stamfordlighthouse.org/> The spotlight tab contains articles about the project and will

continue to be updated.

Submitted by Philip Watson

Sea Scout Fundraiser!

Purchase a beautiful 12-month hanging wall calendar featuring images taken and curated by the teen members of Ship 6. You will support this very active seamanship, leadership, and life skills opportunity.

Order online through December 25. Calendars will be shipped out January 9.

To buy Calendar [Click here](#) For Ship 6 info [Click here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch your inbox for details or contact GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com

Jan. 17 7pm Greenwich YWCA - Nautical Trivia Night.

Feb. 21 7pm Greenwich YWCA - Carleen Lyden Walker presents "Maritime Security"

Mar. 8 7pm Innis Arden Country Club, Change of Watch/Annual General Meeting officiated by Chief of Police and member of America's Boating Club of Greenwich Jim Heavey.

PHENOMENAL Safety Light!



Our own Captain Len Lipton HIGHLY recommends Greatland Laser's emergency signaling device to all boaters. He has had the one since 2002 and the CEO has given the discount code SAR for any America's Boating Club members who want to buy one. Price is \$145 less our 20% discount.

Shown above is the Rescue Laser Flare Magnum signaling device. Despite its name, this is NOT a replacement for flares. It is the size of a 2-cell penlight, so it fits in your pocket or with supplies or on a lanyard around your neck. It also can be aimed (as you do with a signal mirror) to 'target' a ship or plane. If, for example, you fell overboard or were in a dinghy (and of course did not have flares handy) this could save your life. Include it in your ditch bag.

Visit www.greatlandlaser.com to see this phenomenal light.

America's Boating Club | Tomac Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870

[Unsubscribe \[npseducation@gmail.com\]\(mailto:unsubscribe_npseducation@gmail.com\)](mailto:unsubscribe_npseducation@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by greenwichsquadron@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!