



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

Mark 4

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MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER

As I sit here docked at the Montauk Yacht Club on Star Island in Lake Montauk, I find myself thinking of all of you and hope you are enjoying the summer. We left City Island on Sunday having dined on one of Mike Fabrizi's infamous breakfasts on the dock, and proceeded to Montauk with overnight stops at Port Jefferson and Sag Harbor. The seas have been calm and the weather perfect, although still really hot, even by the ocean.

I am pleased that even three days later, I am still thinking about what a fabulous weekend we had on City Island. Karen and I were excited to spend time with so many D/4 members, friends and shipmates during the City Island Rendezvous. The weekend reinforced for me just how special USPS really is and illustrated once again, the many attributes offered by this wonderful organization which has been such a part of my life for many years.

The weekend rendezvous had it all; education, camaraderie, friendship, seamanship, socializing with new friends and reminiscing with our friends of long standing. While it rained all around us, it never "rained on our parade" or on our boats either. But it was HOT!! My heartfelt thanks go out to Mike, Sal, Vincene and the committee for all the planning, hard work, and bottled water, not to mention all

the great food we all indulged in for 3 straight days.

North and South Miniford Yacht Clubs provided wonderful hospitality and safe harbor for us all. As a token of our appreciation, we have donated to each club, a USPS Ensign which will be hoisted and fly every weekend from their respective flag poles during the year.

Events such as this make the honor of serving as the Commander of District 4 even more meaningful. I have such pride in USPS, our mission, and our members. District 4 has a long and rich history as an active and engaged District within USPS and it is certainly an honor and a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to follow in the footsteps of so many excellent Commanders who have preceded me.

It's an exciting time to be an officer in USPS because so much has been happening, so many things are going to change and I am excited about the challenges ahead. Just take a look at the changes that have taken place over the last couple of years and think of what is on the horizon. We are an organization that keeps evolving and that is a good thing. I trust we will hear more innovative ideas in Bellevue, Washington at the Governing Board meeting in September. I hope many D/4 members will join us on that trip to Washington (or even on to Alaska) as these National meetings are always productive, educational, and fun.

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It is amazing to me that 1/3 of my term has already sailed by, but I do think we are well on our way toward increasing our awareness and highlighting the three major functions of USPS; Education, Marketing and Membership.

With world class on the water boating education, coupled with the education of future leaders with Administrative and Executive development training, we are certainly putting our best foot forward to carry out this major function of USPS. Marketing is also an integral part of our organization and we must continue to enhance our outreach for the good of the organization as a whole. Membership is Job # 1. For all of us at the Squadron, District and National level we have to keep membership at the forefront of everyone's minds. While we are holding our own in D/4 we must continue to emphasize this area and continue to take steps to increase our efforts. Through enhanced efforts at all these endeavors, I believe we will increase our visibility and our viability as an organization.

The success of USPS depends on the participation of each and every member. There is so much opportunity available as expressed in our symbolic triangle of Education, Civic Service and Fraternal. Every member can be involved at some level!

For those of you who were not able to join with us at the District Rendezvous at City Island, not to worry!! We have more boating and social activities planned for the remainder of the year. After all, our social theme for the year is "its 5 o'clock Somewhere in District 4". That means there is an activity and/or party somewhere for everyone!! Because our District stretches from New York all the way down the coast of New Jersey, I wanted to offer activities in a variety of venues and locations to encourage

increased participation throughout the District.

Many events are still on the horizon such as:

- 1) Luncheons on Barnegat Bay
August 18 & September 1
- 2) Atlantic City Rendezvous at
Trump Marina August 6,
7, and 8
- 3) District Golf Outing at Pine
Barrens Golf Club
September 14
- 4) Dinner & Theater by the Sea,
Long Beach Island September 25
- 5) "Margaritaville" Jimmy Buffet
Dance Party October 22

There is something for everyone. What we need is YOU!! Join your friends and have some FUN!! Remember this is our organization, yours and mine. This is our Club —like a yacht or country club; this is where we need to participate, this is where we need to socialize, this is where we belong!!

On a final note, I would like to sincerely thank all of the Squadrons who have hosted Karen and I at their respective Change of Watch ceremonies this Spring. We were able to attend 15 Change of Watch ceremonies and it was truly a wonderful experience. The friendliness and graciousness extended to us was incredible. This is what makes USPS such a terrific organization. You are all the Best!

It's a FUNFILLED year. Join with us as the party continues....

IT'S 5 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE!!!!!!

Richard D. Swackhamer
Commander, District 4

ensign now. Report all sightings to Dave Meshulam at djmgem@aol.com.

DREAM CATCHER'S LAST TRIP

On a bright day in Raritan Bay on May 12, 2007, a number of USPS members and their boats gathered to welcome back one of their own, John Gage, who was returning to New Jersey after a three year trip around the world in his 42 ft sailboat, Dream Catcher. John, a member of Shrewsbury Power Squadron, came back a happy man. He had fulfilled his life long dream starting on his adventure when he was 70 years young. Many awards awaited John including recognition by then acting Governor Codey, USPS (he was awarded the Juan del Cano Circumnavigation Award), and District 4. His story was written up in Ocean Navigator and many local newspapers which emphasizes that he may have been the oldest person to circumnavigate the world.

John Gage took off on his last voyage when died on June 19, 2010.

Many of our squadron members were privileged to meet John Gage who, in gratitude for the boating education he started with USPS was available as a speaker at squadron and district meetings. Throughout his presentations he urged his listeners to pursue their dream and emphasized that you are never too old to do so. He will be missed.

ENSIGN DISPLAY RAFFLE REPORT

At our fall conference in October, a lucky winner receive \$100 in the raffle open to all members who display their USPS ensign and are reported to P/D/C David Meshulam for participation in the raffle. Sorry to report that response has been less then outstanding. To date there have been less than a dozen sightings. **SHOW YOUR PRIDE**, display the

Here is Ginger, the Fiorentini pet, telling everyone to wear a life Jacket even our Furry friends need one when the weather is ruff.



Hurricane Preparation

The hurricane season is upon us, and it would be wise to review preparations outlined on our squadron's web site (www.rbps.org) and go to the LINKS page. Scroll down to Weather. The key to protecting our boats is to take effective action as early as possible whenever there is the slightest chance that our area will be impacted. Better to prepare early and discover that you have merely lost a few days of boating, than the rest of the season, because your boat was destroyed.

Now is the time to determine where you will take your boat when the area is threatened, and make sure that the marina can handle your boat, and that it has the proper equipment and enough jackstands. Just because you haul your boat and support it with jackstands, that may not be enough. You should also tie it down at the bow and stern as shown in this photo from BoatUS. Understand that everyone will try to haul their boat as the storm approaches, and the marina may not be able to haul your boat if

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you wait until the last minute, because the marina staff must also prepare the marina itself.

I have weathered three hurricanes at my marina, Lighthouse Point, an excellent place during a hurricane. As the hurricane pushes water in through Barnegat Inlet, it has to travel 10 miles north up the bay and another 5 miles up Toms River where it then enters the marina through a narrow opening. By the time it reaches that point, the wind has probably shifted on the other side of the storm, and pushes the water back down the bay. However, proper and early preparation is required. Because of the layout of the marina, I leave my boat in its slip properly secured.

During one major hurricane, Howard Rothstein, a former SEO, had his boat in a slip a couple down from mine. We made trips to places that sell tires, and picked up old ones. We tied them all around our boats to protect them from other boats that might break loose, or if a line parted. At the bow of my boat, there is only about two feet of water under the keel during normal tides. Therefore, if the water blows out of the marina, which it usually does during a phase of the storm, my boat sits in mud and, therefore, is well protected.

I tie my boat up so that it looks like a spider web of lines. You can't have too many. Everything is stripped from the boat above deck, and electronic equipment is taken home. Whereas hatches and ports are quite strong, should water get into the cabin, I won't lose my electronics. And, there may be lightning, so if the radio antenna is left connected, one might be buying a new radio following the storm. After everything is secure, I take pictures of my boat showing the preparations I took to protect it. Should I sustain damage, for insurance purposes, the photos prove that I took every reasonable precaution. Keep in mind that if your boat is not properly secured and breaks loose and damages other boats or the marina, you are liable.

About twenty-five years ago, I kept my boat at a marina in Bay Head, NJ. My son, Russ, and I went down to complete storm preparations, since it had to remain in its slip. We were listening to NOAA weather as we were completing preparations. NOAA radio had the storm a bit south of Cape May, NJ. The broadcast was garbled and it turned out that NOAA's hurricane's location was wrong, and it was much closer to us. We got the heck out of there and headed home.

I filed a complaint with NOAA, and about four months later I received a call at my office from the head of the weather center, then, located at Rockefeller Center, just two blocks from my office on Fifth Avenue. He invited me to the center. I thought, "this is going to be fun." I was surprised to be warmly welcomed. He showed me their equipment that was WW II vintage. He said that as a result of my letter, they were going to receive new state of the art equipment. When it arrived he invited me to see it, and I would visit with him from time to time thereafter.

NOAA weather is now excellent, and we can listen to it by cell or long-line telephone when we are not near our computer or a VHF radio. Dial 609-261-6600, and when the announcement starts press 6 for Sandy Hook to Little Egg Harbor. Press 3 if you want it further south.

D/Lt Don Baker, JN

CITY ISLAND RENDEZVOUS

By D/C Richard Swackhamer

The Co chairs of this event were: Mike Fabrizi and Sal Scotti, and the committee was their families. They all worked very hard and did a terrific job. **THANK YOU ALL.**

On Friday night there was a cocktail party sponsored and hosted by D/C Richard and (continued on page 5)

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Karen Swackhamer to welcome everyone to City Island and to the respective yacht clubs who so willingly docked the District 4 boats for the weekend. Approx. 50 attendees were there including the District Cdr. from District 3, John Sanfilippo, and it was a great kickoff to the weekend.

The seas were calm that day and the next with 15 boats making their way up the East River past the fabulous New York skyline and the ever spectacular Statue of Liberty, before arriving on City Island, the gateway to Long Island Sound.

On Saturday morning, the boating certification exercise and training began early, as everyone wanted to be finished in time to attend the cocktail party and cookout that followed. Thirteen members participated and with the help of many, including P/D/C Bob Holub from D-3 passed the test.

The Saturday barbeque was "to die for" and could be characterized as an afternoon of "chillin and grillin" with an abundance of steak, pork, salads, corn on the cob, burgers, beer and of course martinis on the deck of the South Minneford Y.C. With the D/4 flag and USPS Ensign flying, over 80 folks enjoyed the camaraderie, and good times that is so typical of D/4 and USPS. Even though we made it through a threatening day without any rain, we ended the evening with a spectacular rainbow over the harbor!

Sunday morning was clear and hot once again and the breakfast on the dock at the North Minneford Y.C. was just what everyone needed before heading off to home or on to other ports. The fruit, strawberries, buns, bread, juice and coffee as well as the conversation about the next ports to be visited seemed to be the perfect way to end our weekend on City Island. We met new friends and reminisced with friends of long standing. We talked about each other's boats and ports to be visited. We became

acquainted with City Island, its long nautical history, its customs and its people. But most of all we had FUN spending the weekend with terrific people and members and friends from District 4. □



A GOOD EATING TIME WAS HAD BY ALL



CARRIE'S WORKSHOP

By Chris Windeler and Ernest Wasserman

Twenty-eight people signed up for the DEO's workshop. Carrie Markham donated her summer house in Toms River NJ for the venue. Tom Smith of Oritani gave the PaddleSmart Workshop and took some great pictures. There was a BOC (Boat Operator's Course) seminar and a BPH (Basic Powerboat Handling) seminar. No one knows exactly how many people participated, since it was difficult to take attendance while the activities were taking place with people wandering in and out. But the weather cooperated and no one went hungry or thirsty.

Participants who pre-registered include: Frank Alvarez, Bill and Carrol Bloxham, Giuseppe Caglomagno, Nikolaos and Sonia-Skounahi Garbidakis, Anita Glasson, Linda Hali, Henry Keller, Marvin Lipper, Arlene Maresca, Carrie Markham, Michael McBride, Betty and Bill Pischel, Andy Preiser, Kevin Redden, Tom Smith, Karen and Richard, Swackhamer, Ted Wallace, Chris and Sherrie Windeler, Pat and Roy Wood, Richard Woznicki and Richard Zucchi.

Our thanks to all that participated and helped make this annual program a success.



Nick Garbidas (fore) and Roy Wood



Roy Wood in boat and Pinto Carlomagno holding the pole.



Sonia and Nick Garbidakis



Rich Woznicki

Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, Editor .

Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at DJMGEM@AOL.COM

Our thanks to all the contributors to this issue whose names appear with their articles.

***ENSIGN SIGHTING
PORT WASHINGTON***



July 24, P/D/C Mike Sangeorgio



Lt. Cookie Zaritsky



Cdr Don Heap, P/Lt Cdr. Dennis Genovese, Lt/ Cdr. Chris DiMeo, P/Lt Norm Condit, Lt/ Cdr Harold Goldberg.

Staten Island Sail and Power Squadron was in the 100th Anniversary of the 4th of July Parade in Travis Staten Island. P/C Jim DiMeo used his boat as a float.

(THANK YOU SISPS. WELL DONE)