



Starboard Watch

Official Publication Of
WATCHUNG SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®
Sail and Power Boating

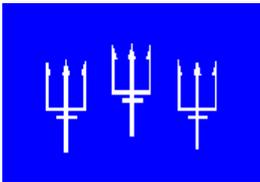
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FALL 2011

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Commander Tracy Swackhamer



Thank you everyone for a wonderful summer of fun squadron events. As summer fades into fall, now is the time to further our boating knowledge and education as well as continuing to come together for some fun events with squadron members and friends. Our theme for the year continues; Education, Membership and Friendship.

I am pleased to confirm that we will be continuing to provide various education classes for prospective and current members of Watchung. Thanks to Harold, Stan, Ted, Don and Bill Foy for keeping our educational efforts rolling and up to date.

In terms of membership, I was excited to be able to introduce several new members at the last General Membership meeting and we continue to look for additional ways to increase membership and member involvement. It is so important that we all increase our member awareness at this time and throughout the year.

Hopefully most of you had an opportunity to see the article written up in the Westfield Leader regarding our General Membership Meeting in June. A big thank you to Marlene for submitting this article. These are the things we can all be doing/thinking about to help get the word out about our wonderful organization.

Friendship is certainly something that is so important to Watchung and has been extremely evident to me in the time I have been Commander. This was especially demonstrated during the memorial service I had the honor of conducting for our recently departed ship mate, P/C Charles Delayo. It was a very moving service with contributions from our Chaplain Edythe Risberg and Past Commanders Ted Wallace, Tony Carbone and Richard Swackhamer. Charlie was a dear friend to all of us and he will be sorely missed. Our prayers continue for Ruth and his family.

I look forward to seeing you all at some of the wonderful events we have planned as we enter the Fall and holiday season!

Watchung Sail and Power Squadron

www.watchungsailandpowersquadron.com

THE STARBOARD WATCH



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Calendar of Events

November 6
WOW Event
Westfield, NJ

November 12
Barnegat Bay 50th Anniversary
Point Pleasant, NJ

December 7
D4 Council Meeting
San Carlo Restaurant
Lyndhurst, NJ

December 11
Holiday Party
Spanish Tavern
Mountainside, NJ

January 11, 2012
District Council Meeting
San Carlo Restaurant
Lyndhurst, NJ

January 24 - 29
USPS Annual Meeting
Jacksonville, FL

SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH



Education Program

2011-2012

America's Boating Course

October 29, 2011 (Saturday - full day)

March 10, 2012 (Saturday - full day)

April 14, 2012 (Saturday - full day)

May 5, 2012 (Saturday - full day)

Marine Communication Systems

Mid-January – Accepting Registration hoslick@verizon.net

SQUADRON EDUCATION NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU!

WSPS STARS



Educational Committee members Ted Wallace, Don Young and Harold Oslick were issued renewed certification to teach public boating course in New Jersey

IN MEMORIAM



*My journey is completed
Now the tide is drifting in
My vessel moves on gentle waves...*

Eternity begins

P/C Charles P. Delayo, Jr., AP, crossed the bar on Thursday, September 22, 2011.

Charlie joined USPS in January, 1991 and rose through the ranks to become the Squadron Commander in 1996 and again in 2000. During his career with USPS, P/C Delayo took many education courses, attaining the grade of Advanced Pilot. He served on many Squadron Committees and was the Chairman of the Training Aids Committee. Watchung Sail and Power Squadron won first place Training Aid awards every year at the Annual Meeting due largely to his efforts. P/C Delayo earned 20 Merit Marks, one for each year he was a member. He was a dedicated member who worked hard at moving the squadron forward and he didn't hesitate to take the reins of the Squadron for a second time in 2000, the first Commander to serve a second term. Charlie pitched in wherever he was needed by playing Santa Claus at the Squadron Christmas parties and also opened his home to the squadron and hosted our Covered Dish Supper year after year.

Charlie was born in Plainfield, N.J. and later moved to Dunellen with his wife Ruth and then settled in Lavallette for the last 10 years.

Charlie was employed as a property manager for Hartz Mountain Industries in Secaucus, New Jersey, retiring in 1997. He enjoyed boating, fishing and playing golf.

His many years of dedication to the squadron were encouraged by his wife Ruth and his children Charles, Ann and Michael. WSPS has lost a dedicated member and he will be greatly missed. He and his family will be in our prayers.

View from the Bridge

by P/C Stan Winkler AP



It's been five months since our Change of Watch and the Good Ship Watchung is on course to fulfill our mission with Commander Swackhamer at the helm.

There's been a strong effort by our commander to make our meetings and activities interesting and informative. We had a great General Membership

meeting at Snuffy's in June with an engaging speaker from the NJ Historical Boating Society and Museum. He gave us an enthralling history of boating in NJ. *Did you know that commercial fishing boats in NJ used carrier pigeons to send coordinates of hot spots to fleet headquarters so radio transmissions couldn't be intercepted by competition???? I'll bet not!* That's just one of many revelations we had.

We had a great Squadron rendezvous at the Reason's home on Green Island again with our typical good turnout. Pat and I travelled there by boat and docked behind the house, so we not only got to spend an afternoon with friends, but also had the opportunity to spend a beautiful day on the water. Following that event, Pat and I took wanderer III to Silver Bay to meet with friends from the Barnegat Bay Squadron, stayed

over for the night and left for home the following evening after spending another great day on the water with friends.

Membership in the Power Squadron has brought us many new friends over the years, and given us opportunities to expand our knowledge of boating, participate in social activities and the opportunity to give something in return by serving in various capacities. I would urge all of you to take advantage of the opportunities available in this great organization, and to consider becoming more active for the good of the squadron, for your own sense of accomplishment and for the opportunity to form special friendships that will endure over the years.

I'm writing this in mid -September and realizing that the summer is virtually over. We normally don't pull our boat until around the 1st week of November, but the days are becoming shorter and the temperatures colder as we await the long cold NJ winters. Winters, however are not so long when you attend social events with fellow mariners, plan for the spring and discuss where to fish, where to cruise, the latest electronics, what needs to be repaired (ugh) while we await launch in April.

This is a good organization for those who belong – and a great organization for those who participate. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS.**

LARocca APPOINTED TO U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY *by Ted Wallace*

Vincent John LaRocca, son of Squadron Lieutenant Tony and Carol LaRocca, has been appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2015. Lt. Tony LaRocca is the Law Officer for Watchung Sail and Power Squadron.



Vincent took the Boating Safety Course in 2005, fully understanding that he would not receive a Boating Safety Certificate since he was only 12 years of age and that the minimum age to receive a certificate was 13. Vinny indicated that he understood and that he wanted to take the course along with his father and older brother and was more interested in getting the education so he was allowed to take the course. Upon completion, he not only passed, but he scored one of the highest grades in the class.



Ted Wallace was contacted by the School Administrator who informed him that the school was participating in a Safety Day where all of the grades were to set up a table in the auditorium to demonstrate ideas on safety. The Winfield Fire Department was invited and an invitation was also extended to the Police Department.

Ted asked if the Watchung Sail and Power Squadron could also set up a table to explain boating and water safety to the students and the permission was granted. P/C Wallace knew that Vincent LaRocca was a 7th grade student in the school and contacted him and asked if he would man the table and explain what he had learned and to also demonstrate the proper wear and use of a Personal Flotation Device. He agreed and he borrowed life jackets and literature to be handed out to the students and he proceeded to conduct a safety class that was not only well received, but he had almost all of the students riveted to his table.

Vincent stated that the boating and safety education that he received from his association with the Watchung Sail and Power Squadron inspired him to try for a naval career.

On May 27, 2011, Tony and Carol LaRocca held an announcement party at the Kenilworth Inn for their son Vincent and invited all of the teachers and instructors who helped to shape the life of this young man. P/C Wallace attended the affair and presented Vincent with letters of congratulations from D/C Florence Smith and Commander Tracy Swackhamer. He was also presented with a Watchung Sail and Power Squadron 50th Anniversary Burgee to carry with him to remind him of all of the members of the Squadron who wish him well.

MONEY ISLAND RAFT-UP

by Stan Winkler

Saturday, August 20, 2011 was forecast early in the week to be cloudy with a 20% possibility of thunderstorms in the afternoon. By Friday of that week, it looked like we would have a decent day with a minimal chance for those dreaded thunderstorms. Saturday came and we had nothing but severe clear. Beautiful blue skies, light breezes and calm seas. The PERFECT day for a Watchung Sail and Power Squadron Raft-Up.

Pat and Stan Winkler were aboard Wanderer III with P/D/C Dick Swackhamer and Cdr Tracy Swackhamer as their guests. The one hour trip from Key Harbor Marina to Money Island anchorage on the Toms River was as good as it gets. Dick and Stan on the bridge navigating our way along the Barnegat Bay buoyage system while Pat and Tracy enjoyed a relaxing trip on the bow seat. We then set our anchor and awaited the arrival of other boats. Shortly thereafter, Bob and Lee Verkouille arrived aboard Vitamin Sea and tied up alongside.

We then brought out the food and drinks and had a wonderful day of camaraderie, relaxation and perfect weather. Nobody else arrived, but that detracted not one iota from the wonderful day we enjoyed. I doubt that anyone else had a better day than we had. It's unfortunate they couldn't join us and share the good times.

Some might consider the fact that only 2 boats at a raft-up would constitute an event failure. Those of us who participated consider it a rousing success. Our job as a squadron is to make educational and social activities available

for the membership. Members then have the choice to participate if they wish. If you haven't taken advantage of these opportunities, I would like to see you do so in the future. You just may find you have a great time with some great people.

OK – I'm off my soap box now and will continue with dialogue concerning the rest of our day. Late afternoon came and Vitamin Sea untied and headed for home. Wanderer III weighed anchor and was about to leave when we heard someone yelling for assistance. There was a man aboard a wave runner that was awash and he thought it was sinking. We motored alongside (from leeward as we learned in our courses) and threw him a line so he could tie up to our swim platform. He stated that he had some friends coming to get him from Lighthouse Point Marina, but needed assistance until they arrived. Our membership pledge states "to render assistance whenever possible" and we did. His friends arrived, tied up his wave runner to their boat, took him aboard and went on their way. So, we had a great time, provided aid to a fellow mariner and headed for home.

Once again, Dick and Stan on the bridge, Pat and Tracy on the bow seat while the sun was settling in the west, and we enjoyed a smooth ride home to our slip.

I don't think there's anyone who owns a boat who doesn't sometimes question their sanity and wonder "WHY?" when the bills come due. When we got back to our slip – I knew why. It just doesn't get any better than this.

RAFT-UP PICTURES



Wanderer III & Vitamin Sea



L to r: Dick Swackhamer, Bob and Lee Verkouille



In the Galley with Tracy (l) and Pat

L to r: Dick Swackhamer, Bob and Lee Verkouille, Pat Winkler and Tracy Swackhamer



RENDEZVOUS AT REASON'S

by Ronald Reason

This year the Rendezvous, which is usually held during the month of August, was held earlier on Saturday July 30, 2011. On Friday, July 29th, with the help of family and friends, we set up the 10' x 20' tent for the food table and took care of the other preparations as usual. We were returning home from a restaurant later that evening when we were suddenly engulfed in a huge thunderstorm with lightning, thunder and very heavy rain.

Approaching Green Island, it became even more intense and the wind began to really blow at 45 mph from the East. As a result of the heavy rain and wind, the entire tent framework just buckled and collapsed in spite of the efforts my son Dennis to secure it to a fence. Saturday morning another shelter unit was obtained and although a bit smaller, it covered the food area adequately.

Saturday dawned a beautiful day and by 1:00 PM forty-eight of our Squadron members and Squadron guests had all arrived and were busy enjoying the many dishes that were provided by our members and guests along with hot dogs and hamburgers cooked by my son Ronnie. While most attendees arrived in Green Island by car, two salty individuals, Stan Winkler and Bob Barkalow, braved the high seas of Barnegat Bay and arrived on their boats. A raffle handled by our own Administrative Officer, P/C Tony Carbone whom asked for assistance in pulling the winning names by Mrs. Davenport. The raffle resulted in two winners; Rich Fiorentini won \$50 and Gerry Corblis took home a win of \$25.

I wish to thank Connie Russo, Tony Carbone, Ted Wallace, my sons Ronnie & Dennis and of course my wife Lorraine for, their continued help and assistance every year at rendezvous time.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Bill Rodgers

Thirty-three Watchung members and guests dodged raindrops to make it to Snuffy's in Scotch Plains for Commander Tracy Swackhamer's first general membership meeting on 14 June 2011. Tracy pointed out that the date not only celebrated Flag Day but also the wedding anniversaries of the Rodgers and Oslicks. Elaine and Bill were married fifty-nine years ago while Marlene and Harold marked their fifty-second year of marriage.

A short meeting was held after dinner. New member Gilbert Zimmerman, Jr. of Morristown was sworn in by the commander.

Following adjournment Tracy introduced the guest speaker, Robert O'Brien. He is the retired CEO of Carteret Savings, president of the New Jersey Museum of Boating and past-president of the New Jersey Historical Society. For close to one hour he spoke of the prominence of New Jersey as an important center of maritime history from the 1600s to the present day. His presentation was augmented by slides depicting various boat designs unique to New Jersey.

The museum is located in Bay Head at the Johnson Brothers Boat Works. Admission is free and the hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week.



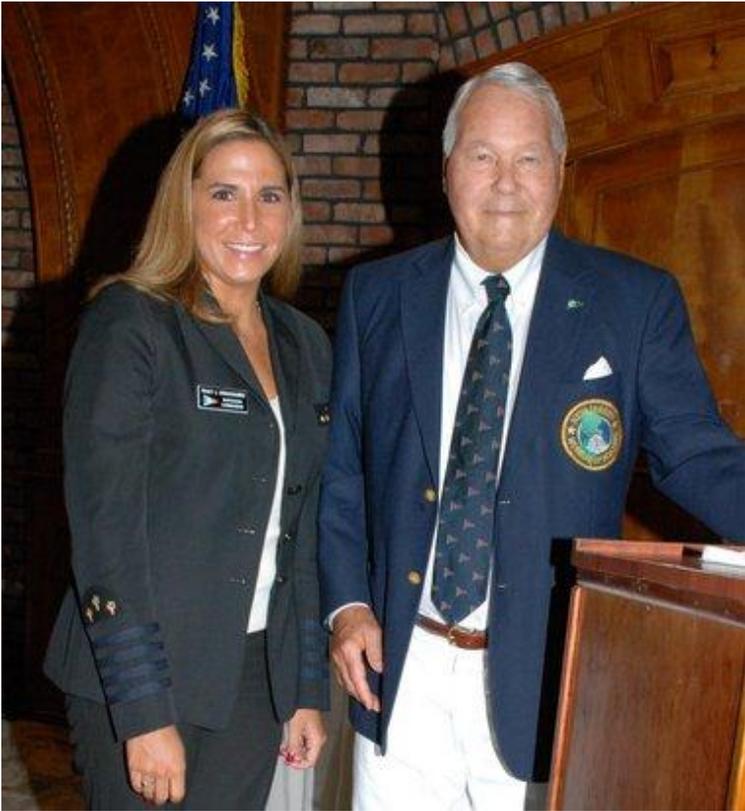
P/C Marlene Oslick wrote the article that appears on page 10 and submitted it to the Suburban News. The article was published on Thursday, June 23, 2011.

JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ARTICLE

WESTFIELD — Robert O’Brien, President and one of the founders of the New Jersey Museum of Boating, presented an illustrated talk on the History of Boating in New Jersey at the General Membership Meeting of the Watchung Sail and Power Squadron on Tuesday, June 14 at Snuffy’s Pantagis Restaurant.

The talk began with the discovery of New Jersey and Barnegat Inlet by Henry Hudson while he was searching for a northwest passage to India.

New Jersey is almost entirely surrounded by water with only about 46 miles of land border with New York State. O’Brien also explained the origins of the Sea Bright Skiff and how its lapstrake construction is the legacy of the Viking heritage of the Swedish Quakers, who originally had settled in Swedesboro but moved on to Sea Bright.



Commander Tracy Swackhamer thanks Robert O’Brien for his illustrated talk on NJ Boating

The speaker also regaled the group with the history of the establishment of the New Jersey Life Saving Stations which were the precursor of the United States Coast Guard. He informed the group that at the time of the naming of New Jersey as the Garden State, there was actually more income in New Jersey being derived from boatbuilding than from growing produce.

O’Brien is also a past President of the New Jersey Historical Society. The New Jersey Museum of Boating is located in Point Pleasant at Johnson Brothers Boat Works, Buildings 12 and 13.

The Commander of Watchung Sail and Power Squadron is Tracy Swackhamer of Westfield.



NAUTI-FACTS

by Rocco E. Fuschetto

Did ye know that?

BLAZERS - Uniforms were not common place among the lower deck but most captains like to show off their crews for ceremonies and since the captain paid the bills they were able to choose the outfits for their men. The snappy blue jackets worn by the crew of the H.M.S. Blazer were the most memorable and in no time the crews were known as "the Blazers" and that is how the garments go its name.

MAYONNAISE - Believed to have been coined by the French officer, Duc de Richelieu, who led the successful attack on the British navy base of Port Mahon in Minorca in 1756. Finding the storehouses in flames and with no food for the victors, Richelieu improvised a meal from the remnants comprising eggs, vinegar, oil, pepper, salt and mustard. The beaten ingredients so delighted the Frenchmen they named it after their victory---Mahonnaise.

SOLD DOWN THE RIVER - From the perpetual threat held against slaves working in areas bordering the Northern States of America. If they misbehaved or proved lazy, they could be "sold down the river"(the Mississippi) to work in the southern sugar plantations. From this comes the notion of cheated, hoodwinked, taken for a ride.

SPIC AND SPAN - In pristine condition, it referred originally to a newly built ship. A "spic" was a spike or nail, a "span" a length of timber, both primary items of ship construction.



THE LIGHTER SIDE

by Rocco E. Fuschetto

Time for a Laugh Break

WINE - An older couple sipping a glass of wine as they watched a beautiful sunset from the cockpit of their boat and she said "I love you so much, I don't know how I could live without you." He turned to her and said," Is that you talking or the wine?" She replied, 'It's me talking to the wine!'

OIL - There are a lot of folks who can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in America. Well, there's a very simple answer. Nobody bothered to check for oil. We just didn't know we were getting low. The reason for that is purely geographical. All our oil is in Alaska, Texas, California and Oklahoma. All our dipsticks are in Washington, D. C.

LOGICAL REASONING - Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night, Holmes said: "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?" Watson said: I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes: "And what does that tell you?" Watson: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?" Holmes: "Somebody stole our tent!"

SMART KID - The teacher asks: "Now Susan, how many fingers do you have?" Susan: "Ten" Teacher: "Right! Now if you lost four of them what would you have?" Susan: "No more piano lessons!"