

# WILMINGTON POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 5

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®  
**SAIL AND POWER BOATING**

## THE LUBBER'S LINE

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October-November-December 2010

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**November  
Assembly  
Racing log canoes  
on the  
Chesapeake Bay  
Page 6**

### *Collecting and Preserving WPS History*



OMG, I didn't know that!!!

There is one great benefit about the average age of the Wilmington Power Squadron being on the "gray" side: we have lots of memories and meanderings about the history of the organization as it took shape and grew in strength.

*Did you know that WPS was founded in 1938 with about 30 members – when we had boatyards, not marinas?*

*That USPS did not allow women to be members – only 'Certificate Holders' – but they could take squadron courses, and that a WPS member's wife, Clare Livingston, was the first woman in the nation to pass all USPS advanced grade courses?*

*Or, that about 50 years ago a dozen or so WPS members (and, yes, certificate holding wives) started a popular band called the Exhaust Pipers?*

The Power Squadron's Executive Committee would like your help in collecting the bits and pieces of oral history that you often share with each other relaxing in the cockpit of the boat so that we can preserve this information in a new link on the WPS award-winning website.

Past Commander Jay Minshall has helped launch this exciting collaborative project by putting some of his memories to paper. Jay started tinkering with boats as a youngster, took his first squadron course while in Wilmington High School, and then joined his first power squadron a few years later in Rochester, NY.

Jay shares how he came to chair a committee that started the "Day of Instruction Afloat" that was taught every Spring and Fall for more than 10 years, sometimes with more than 100 students aboard dozens of squadron boats. Jay also writes:

*Another such activity was the three shop sessions that I added to the Engine Maintenance Course about 1963. Prompted by a government request for help*

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**COMMANDER'S  
MESSAGE**

*By Cdr. John G. Ingram, AP*



Where did the time go? It seems like we just splashed the boat last week and now we are making a list of winter projects for the boat. It has been HOT, HOT, HOT on the Bay this Summer. This was the year of the 3 Augusts. We didn't get out on the water as often as we would have liked. Spent time in the slip with no wind and the air conditioner running. We survived hurricane Earl... sort of a non-event, fortunately. But, the hurricane season isn't over yet.

We have sailed, vicariously, with Chuck and Judy Stadler on their trip from Rock Hall up (and down) the Hudson River, up the East River and through Hells Gate into Long Island Sound. They made it back home just before hurricane Earl was due. We have followed P/C Donna and Bill Zimmerman on their trip up to New England. I expect they will be back in Rock Hall before the end of September. I hope when Betty retires, we will be sending you reports from our sailing ventures to far away places.

As I write this, Jim Robinson, our Education Officer, has scheduled the Marine Electronics class this Fall (Sections 101 and 102), with section 103 to be offered in the Spring, taught by Randy Williamson. And P/C Dave Sharpless is organizing a mini-cruise to the Solomons.

The Assemblies Committee, co-chaired by Judy Stadler and Betty Ingram, has put together a great program for this winter. Social Assemblies are scheduled for Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, and Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. The WPS Annual Meeting and Founders Day Social is scheduled for Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE NOTE: the November Social date has been changed from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jim and Zelma Robinson will be hosting the Annual Fall Picnic at their home again this year on October 10<sup>th</sup>. They have hosted this great Fall function for many years... and if Zelma doesn't break an arm or leg this year, it will be another great one. Don't miss it.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *Executive Department*

### *A course alteration for Coop Charting*

Technological change ends up solving problems and yet at the same time technology always seems to create a new set of problems. The way we do piloting and navigation has undergone a profound change during the last decade, finding our way across the waters much easier. However, one of the unintended consequences of the GPS reality is that the way we help NOAA with our coop charting program does not work so well. The program must be changed. One big change has already been made. The land based search for Coast and Geodesic Survey markers has been eliminated. We are now focused where we should be focused: on the water.

We can help NOAA effectively by, focusing our attention on finding and reporting chart errors. Once a USPS member has located an error there needs to be a **simple** downloadable form to report that error to the squadron's Co-op Charting Chairman. There is really no need for this to be a long or detailed form. NOAA will go out to the area and do their own assessment of the error and their own detailed correction. Notification of an error is enough. Correction of the error is unnecessary and unwanted. Like many agencies and companies NOAA wants to know when one of their products is not quite right. They want feed-back from their customers. It seems that sending an error report to the District level is unnecessary. To send it to the National level from the squadron seems like a better alternative. The squadron chairman should check it over and then send it on to the National chairman who can give it to NOAA.

There is a big undone job out there for District Coop Charting committees. This unmet need is marina reports. Members of USPS across the country want information about marinas. The Coast Pilot put out by NOAA is of very limited use and commercial publications seem to focus their highest praises for their biggest advertisers. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could get marina reports on a District Website? The D5 Website could tell you about the over-night choices available in harbors like Annapolis, Rock Hall, and Yorktown. If you wanted to cruise outside home waters you could check the District Websites in other regions. When each of the Districts got this information collected, organized and displayed it would be a simple matter for NOAA to use it for any publications they might put out in the future. In the meantime a new and worthwhile benefit has been created for USPS members. The required yearly interaction between marina owners and squadron members might increase our presence at the places where many boats are kept. This in turn, might lead to a better understanding of USPS by the boating public.

Making changes is not easy, but some changes can be clearly for the better.



## *Education Department*

Fall classes began at A.I. du Pont High School on September 14. Ten students are currently enrolled in the three module version of Marine Electronics being instructed by Randy Williamson.

Piloting is tentatively scheduled for late spring. This course, one of our most popular Advanced Grade courses for the novice boater, has long been a mainstay subject for WPS members.

Your Bridge and Executive Committee remain committed to making boating education available to membership through both the full course as well as the 2 hour per course seminar formats. Your course/subject inputs (desires) are not only helpful, but actively requested. With your help we can continue to offer relevant boating education based on the needs of our membership.

Interested in something possibly a little more “hands on”, or a specific subject or detail not presently available, whatever, let’s discuss it!

Maximize your boating and your WPS membership by contacting Jim Robinson at 610-444-5155 ([jimrobinson37@aol.com](mailto:jimrobinson37@aol.com)), or David Sharpless at 302-239-7995 ([bdsharpless@verizon.net](mailto:bdsharpless@verizon.net)).

### SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATION CLASSES

14 Sept. – Safe Boating Certification class began at A.I. du Pont High School

28 Oct. – Safe Boating Certification class begins at Mc Kean High School

24 March – Safe Boating Certification class begins in the Kennett Square area

05 Apr. – Safe Boating Certification class begins at A.I. du Pont High School

21 Apr. – Safe Boating Certification class begins at Mc Kean High School

*Lt/C James Robinson, AP  
Educational Officer*

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## **2010 - 2011 Yearbook**

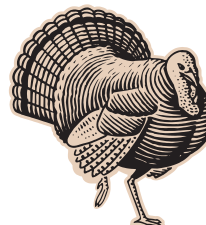
It's the time for our yearbook to be assembled and printed. If you have any changes to your listing in the member roster section of the yearbook please email your changes to Barbara Sharpless at: [bdsharpless@verizon.net](mailto:bdsharpless@verizon.net)

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*(Commander's Message, continued from page 2)*

This organization is completing its 72<sup>nd</sup> year. That is 72 years of “Fun, Friends and Better Boating”. It has all been made possible by volunteers from our membership. When I was asked to serve on the Assemblies Committee and the Bridge a few years ago, I did so because I felt I had gotten a lot from my membership, in the form of education, fun, and friends. If you feel that you would like to serve, please let me know. I think we could find a spot for you.

See you on the water or at an assembly or at the picnic!



*(WPS History, continued from page 1)*

during World War II, WPS taught classes in navigation and seamanship to the U.S. military servicemen. Each year in May, all students in the Advance Piloting class were scheduled to do the plotting and calculations aboard one of the vessels in the AP navigation contest. An afternoon Squadron picnic completed the day. Often this was at Sassafras Farm, where P/Cs Ralph Dodge & Larry Livingston, DuPont retirees, lived and grew holly trees for sale. One of P/C Hal Johnson's many boats, the "Ossipee VII", had previously belonged to Larry Livingston. It had an obvious sag in the cabin top. A too-heavy machine gun had been mounted there when the government had borrowed the boat during the war. The Livingston's had a manual pump organ on board that was used for sing-alongs at Squadron rendezvous.

It would be a great help to the WPS history project if you could share your knowledge and experiences about the earlier days of our organization and send them on to Barbara Sharpless, Pam Orris (editor of this fantastic newsletter), or to a member of the Executive Committee. P/C Sut Anderson suggests the Wednesday luncheons might be a good place to start jotting down notes. Enjoy the challenge!!

*Lt/C Rita Shade, P  
Administrative Officer*



## CHRISTMAS AT SEA

The goal of the Seamen's Center of Wilmington's Christmas at Sea Program is to give a "Ditty Box" filled with gifts to every seafarer arriving in Delaware during the month of December. Last year the Seamen's Center provided gifts to over 1,200 mariners. The members of WPS provided some of them.

The ditty boxes are filled with essentials and goodies as listed below. Please be a part of the Christmas at Sea Program this year. Pick up your shoe box at the Social on Friday, 5 November and return your wrapped gift at the Christmas Social on Sunday, December 5th.

I'll thank you, the Seamen's Center will thank you and, best of all, some seaman will be very grateful to receive your gift.

*Lt Mary E. Stacey*

### ***DITTY BOX CONTENTS***

Toothpaste	Playing Cards
Toothbrush	Chap Stick
Comb	Knitted Hat/Scarf
Candy/Gum	Hand Lotion
Sewing Kit	Shampoo
Pens/ Stationery	Razors
Soap	Cough Drops
Warm Socks	Winter Gloves

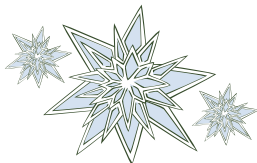


## **2011 Cruise Reminder**

The Annual Summer Cruise, scheduled for 18-24 June 2011, is still in the formation stages as of this writing. Please mark the dates on your calendar accordingly. The itinerary, activities, highlights, reservation forms, etc. will appear in forthcoming issues of the *Lubber's Line*. Additionally we shall be establishing an informational "e-net" for the purpose of keeping our potential cruisers and shore goers apprised as plans move forward toward fruition. All members are invited to participate in all or any portion of this Week on the Bay event.

Interested in receiving the e-mails, have questions, whatever? Contact David Sharpless at 302-239-7995 or send an e-mail to [bdsharpless@verizon.net](mailto:bdsharpless@verizon.net).

*P/C Dennis M. Wallace, P*  
*P/C C. David Sharpless, AP*  
*2011 Cruise Co-Chairs*





## *WPS Birthday List - October-November-December*

<i>Oct-Nov-Dec</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Oct-Nov-Dec</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Oct-Nov-Dec</i>	<i>Date</i>
Marguerite R. Travis	Oct 8	Bert H. Mahlman	Nov 2	Cathy L. Knowles	Dec 7
Margaret B. Hall	Oct 10	C. Robert Buchanan	Nov 4	Harry Sut Anderson II	Dec 9
Pamela M. Orris	Oct 10	Emilia Talloua-Abel	Nov 4	Robert J. Melcher	Dec 9
Dennis M. Wallace	Oct 11	Betty Parker	Nov 11	Patricia M. Lipari	Dec 12
Mary Jane Wenhold	Oct 12	Richard Rodenhouser	Nov 11	John E. Koval	Dec 13
Herman Hopman	Oct 17	Edward H. Kris	Nov 16	Laurence R. McKay	Dec 14
Frank J. Clendening	Oct 23	C. Harwin Smith	Nov 21	Kenneth A. Schaefer	Dec 14
John J. McEvoy	Oct 24	Donald R. Engler	Nov 22	Katherine L. Minshall	Dec 16
Victoria J. Benson	Oct 27	Janine D. Marrone	Nov 25	C. David Sharpless	Dec 16
Robert B. Minshall	Oct 27	Conrad L. Hoover	Nov 26	Betty K. Ingram	Dec 19
Henry E. Romani	Oct 27	W. Michael King	Nov 26	John T. Reager	Dec 21
Walter R. Williamson	Oct 28	George J. Roewe Jr.	Nov 27	Frederic W. Abel 3rd	Dec 25
John C. Leshner	Oct 29	Paul W. Morgan Jr.	Dec 1	David C. Ginn	Dec 26
James E. Malin	Oct 30	Anne M. Minard	Dec 3	Margaret M. Smith	Dec 26

## *Welcome Aboard New Members*



**Jeffrey L. Arriza and Nancy J. Peffer.** Jeff and Nancy, referred to WPS by Cdr. John Ingram, live in the Kennett Square, PA area. They are members of the New Castle Sailing Club and are looking forward to taking the Marine Electronics course being offered this Fall at A. I. DuPont High School. Both Jeff and Nancy have sailed with many members of WPS and are “on the five year plan” in purchasing their own sailboat.

**Joseph and Jean Novotny.** Joe and Jean live in the Newark area and were referred to WPS by P/C Sut Anderson. In mid-October they are planning on taking their 37’ sailboat, Tamara, which is presently at Bay Boat Works on the Northeast River, and head south with destination TBD.

Welcome Aboard Jeff, Nancy, Joe and Jean.



## Calendar of Events



			Weekly Luncheons: Lucky's Coffee House Concord Pike, Talleyville DE, Wednesday
01-03	Oct.		D/5 Sail Regatta & Fall Fest Cambridge/Rock Hall, MD
10	Oct.	1500	WPS Fall Picnic for Members & Friends James & Zelma Roobinsons Home 122 Fairthorne Street, Kennett Square, PA
16-17	Oct.		WPS Late Fall Rendezvous, Chester River KIA-P/R/C Steve Leishman, SN Sat. Foliage Day Cruise & Luch on the Hook, Overnight Raftup Optional
27	Oct.	1930	WPS Executive Committee Meeting Conectiv Energy & Technology Center, Newark DE
28	Oct.	1900	Safe Boating Certification begins, Mc Kean High School 301 Mc Kennan's Church Rd., Wilmington, DE
05-07	Nov.		D/5 Fall Conference, Rockville Hilton, Rockville, MD
05	Nov.	1830	WPS Social, Brandywine Community Center
24	Nov.	1930	WPS Executive Committee Meeting Connective Energy & Technology Center, Newark, DE
05	Dec.	1400	WPS Holiday Social, Brandywine Community Center
07	Dec.		<b>Deadline for January, February Lubber's Line Material</b> A. I. Dupont High School, 50 Hillside Rd., Wilm., DE



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