

The Ship's Mail

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San Diego Squadron Installs New Bridge



P/R/C Edwin E.J. Mraz

On Saturday, 19 January 2008, over 50 members of the San Diego Sail and Power Squadron and their guests gathered at Southwestern Yacht Club for dinner and an evening of celebration at the 55th annual Change of Watch, to witness District Commander, Charles E. Peterson, SN [Phoenix SPS] install Edwin E.J. Mraz, SN, as the squadron commander for 2008-2009.

Ed, a past Rear Commander, has served U.S.P.S. in many roles, including Chairman of the Basic Public Education Committee and member of the National Committee on Nominations, as well as being a former Squadron Educational Officer of SDSPS. The Chicago native and his wife Pauline Mraz (a senior member) have devoted countless hours of volunteer effort to U.S.P.S. Having recently retired, Ed agreed to take the reins of the squadron being relinquished by 2007-2008 Cdr Edward C. Bowler, AP.

Also installed to serve in the new bridge year were Michael C. Fontaine, AP, Educational Officer; Allan T. Bombard, AP, Executive Officer; Diann E. Nephew, P, Administrative Officer; and Claudia J. Bowler, AP, Treasurer. William G. Frame, AP, elected to the position of Assistant Secretary, has been appointed by the Executive Committee to serve as squadron Secretary.

Dan Carlin continues as Assistant SEO, and Trish Carlin continues as Assistant Treasurer. Jean Gleason assumes the position of Assistant Administrative Officer. Installed as Executive Committee members-at-large were Ted Bowler, Robert Gibbs, AP, Daniel Nephew, P; and P/C E. Ronald Weiner, P. P/C Melvin Mones, AP, was installed for a 3-year term on the Rules Committee, and Donald Litzenberg, AP, will serve a 3-year term on the Audit Committee.

P/C David Baer, SN, and Mary Ann Renzi will serve 3-year terms on the Nominating Committee and Kathleen Romero, AP, was installed for a 1-year term on NomCom.

The 2007 Sail Fleet trophy was presented to Lt/C Michael C. Collins. The Member of the Year award was presented to P/Lt/C John D. Isaksen, P. And a special Lifetime Achievement award was presented to P/D/C Thomas S. Swift, AP. Tom Swift has served the squadron in many roles over the years and has accrued 39 Merit Marks.

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Commander's Message

By Cdr Edwin Mraz, SN

I start this first message as your Commander with an observation as to the "State of San Diego Sail & Power Squadron" ...it is excellent!! We are financially strong, we have a full educational program underway, we have 188 members (as of 2/12), and we are still growing. On top of all that we couldn't live in a better place to go boating and attract new members.

HAPPENINGS:

- **SDSPS Sail Fleet** held their first Race Saturday Feb. 9 with three boats participating. The race was called off at 1500 due to a lack of wind and an outgoing tide. Let's keep our fingers crossed for better luck for the next race Sat., March 8th.
- **USPS Public Seminar Series.** The first of four scheduled seminars for the public, was presented by Bob Gibbs Monday Feb. 18 at the West Marine on Rosecrans. The topic was Using Marine GPS with 14 people attended. These seminars are a great tool to help increase SDSPS image within San Diego's boating community. Next program, March 10th, is "On Board Weather Forecasting" by Bill Bridge with a charge of \$40.
- **District-28 Spring Conference** in Glendale, AZ. March 7 & 8 (Sat.-Sun.). It would be great to see a lot of SDSPS members present to support our own Katie Law as she is sworn in as the new 2008 District Commander. Congratulations Katie! We couldn't be more proud!
- **General Membership Meeting (GMM)** Friday, March 14, is scheduled at Southwestern Yacht Club. Dinner (6:30 PM) is a Mexican Buffet, followed by a short business meeting (7:30 PM). Entertainment will follow at 8:00 PM. Our guest speaker, Al Sorkin, is a Maritime Museum member and will give a presentation on *The Making of Master and Commander* ...the movie in which Al acted as one of the crew along with Russell Crowe. See the announcement on page 3.
- **Commander's Round Table** meeting #2 will be held Friday, April 11 at Southwestern Yacht Club starting 7 PM. I'll be commenting on recent happenings at the USPS Annual Meeting held in Dallas in February. We'll also talk about the issues, challenges, and opportunities for SDSPS and USPS! Here is an opportunity for you to make suggestions and express your opinion on how SDSPS should operate.
- **Vessel Safety Check (VSC).** Our Team is ready to inspect your boat! Remember your VSC decal needs renewing each year. I hear that San Diego Bay is a training ground for Homeland Security, USCG, and other security agencies. Many members have reported being stopped and boarded. Perhaps a current sticker on your boat will lessen the chances of that happening to you!
- **Educational Schedule of Member Courses.** Our SEO Mike Fontaine has a full 2008 docket of courses from which you can choose. Take a look at the schedule herein and mark your calendar to attend! Note: If it has been several years since you attended a course, then a refresher might be a good idea. All the courses, revised over the last six years, are fresher, more current and have more bells and whistles!
- **"Benefit On the Bay."** SDSPS is a minor sponsor of Southwestern Yacht Club's charitable program. We have donated four Certificates allowing the holder to attend one USPS Seminar program.free.
- The **Boating Course** with 17 students enrolled, ended February 20th. Dan and Trish Carlin did another outstanding job training and recruiting new members who joined the squadron on the last night! Congratulations, to a great teaching team!
- **Boat Smart**, a 4-week course, is scheduled to start Wednesday March 12th at Southwestern Yacht Club, 7 PM to 9:30 PM. Help us get the word out to your friends and neighbors about the class. Let's all work to make boating safer for all of us

Answer to *nauti-bender*. "a collision." (see p. 4)



The San Diego Sail & Power Squadron

Cordially Invites You and Your Guests to Attend the

March General Members Meeting, Mexican Dinner & Program:

Speaker: Al Sorkin from the San Diego Maritime Museum will present a show about the making of the movie "*Master and Commander*". Al was an extra on the set and is also knowledgeable about the history of the HMS Surprise, the ship on which the movie was filmed. The HMS Surprise is now part of the Maritime Museum. We will also learn about the modifications to the ship so that the movie could be filmed on board.

Friday, 14 March 2008

No-Host Cocktails at 6:30; Dinner, Meeting, and Program from 7 p.m.

At the Southwestern Yacht Club

Cost: \$25 per person for members and guests. Members and their guests may attend the meeting and program (no meal) free. The public is welcome. Reservations are required for dinner. Please make payment at the door.

Wear your finest Hawaiian shirt & enjoy some great Jimmy Buffett music.

Mexican Style Buffet: *Tossed Green Salad with Ranch or Italian dressings, Carne Asada Tacos with all the "fixings" (shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, diced onions, jalapenos, sour cream, shredded cheeses), Chicken Enchiladas, Cheese Enchiladas, Refried Beans and Spanish Rice.*

Reservations for dinner are essential by: 1200 on Wednesday, 12 March 2008.

Please call today to reserve your place at dinner: Lt/C Diann Nephew, (619) 692-4482.

Or reserve your seat(s) by e-mail [smdiann1@yahoo.com](mailto:sndiann1@yahoo.com) . Please make payment at the door.



San Diego Sail & Power Squadron Name Tags with Squadron Burgee, by Cdr Ed Mraz, SN

Some of you might have noticed the name tag with the Squadron Burgee that I have been wearing as have other Bridge officers. If you would like to purchase one, they are priced at \$6.00 each (plus \$1 for shipping up to three nametags). There's a choice of three backings to attach to a shirt, jacket, etc. 1) Safety Pin Clasp (good for shirt or blouse), 2) Clutch Pin Clasp (best for suit, blazer, or uniform jacket) or, 3) Magnetic Fastener (extra cost of \$1.50). My wife Pauline tells me that magnetic backings are strong and may damage delicate fabrics or knits. As my name tag (pictured above) shows, the Squadron Burgee is very attractive and distinctive. The company does not have a web site but you can contact them by phone or email listed below. If several of you place an order together, you could save postage.

KAY CEE ENGRAVING
Box 625
Heathsville, VA 22473
Phone & Fax: 804-580-8247
Email: <kctags.yahoo.com>

WELCOME TO 27 NEW MEMBERS

by P/C Ted Bowler, Ch/Membership Committee

We are happy to have 27 new members in the San Diego Sail and Power Squadron, all of whom have joined since January 1st. We urge our new members to get out to an event and become active. Come to a General Membership Meeting so we can all meet you and swear you in. We are here to have fun as well as to pursue our boating education, etc.

Family Members: Michael and Sandra Barksdale; Bob and Shannon Blevins; Douglas Bintliff and Mimi Carr; David and Suzanne Dougherty; Dawn and Matthew Grob (and children Spencer and Emily); Lee and Anna Hornbrook; Chris Jerrigan and Karen Richter; Cindy and Steven Zisser (and children Jared, Zachary and Emily).

Individual Members: Alan Bilecki, Stephen Castro, Gregory Finch, Zig Hamner, Michael Jones, Steven Kiss, Gordon Kovtun, Brian Makishi, James Weber, and William Yeung. We also have a transferring member, James Daugherty (from Chicago).

The Bridge (2008-09)

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The Ship's Mail

The Ship's Mail is published bimonthly for the members of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc. The purposes of the squadron are to promote safe boating and provide civic service in an atmosphere of fellowship.

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Skipper's Challenge—A "Nauti-bender"

by Ye Olde Salt

A new feature in *The Ship's Mail* will be the occasional appearance of a mind-bending question to test your nautical knowledge, in other words: a "nauti-bender." Do you know the proper definition of "safe speed"? It is the speed at which you can take proper action to avoid ____? ____.
[Answer on page 2, col, 1)

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SDSPS CALENDAR –Mar/Apr/May 2008

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Contact</u>
March 2008			
Tues/04 1900	Seamanship course begins	Southwestern YC	Mike Fontaine
Fri-Sun/07-09	D28 Spring Conference	Thunderbird Ctr/Glendale, AZ	Cdr Ed Mraz
Sat/08	Sail Fleet race	San Diego Bay	Don Litzenberg
Tues/11 1930	ExCom meeting	SWYC	Ed Mraz
Wed/12 1900	Boat Smart course begins	SWYC	Ed Mraz
Fri/14 1830	General Members' Meeting	SWYC	Diann Nephew
Sat/15 1000	SDCA Cruiser Navigation contest	Host: SWYC	Dave Weimer
April 2008			
Fri-Sun/04-6	D28 Inland Rendezvous	Katherine Landing, AZ	Katie Law
Tues/08 1930	ExCom meeting	SWYC	Ed Mraz
Wed/09 1900	Sail course (through 6/11)	Instructor's home	Tom Stanford
Fri/11 1900	Cdr's Roundtable meeting	SWYC	Ed Mraz
Sat/12 1200	Sail Fleet race	San Diego Bay	Don Litzenberg
Sat/12 1000	SDCA Cruiser Navigation contest	Host: SDYC	Dave Weimer
Wed-Sat/16-19	Int'l Boating/Water Safety Summit	Sheraton SD Hotel& Marina	www.ibwss.org
Sun/20 0900-1700	Day @ the Docks [sign up to help!]	S.D. Sportfishing Landing	Shaun McArdle
May 2008			
Tues/06 1930	ExCom meeting	SWYC	Ed Mraz
Wed/07 1900	Boat Smart course begins (through 5/28)	SWYC	Ed Mraz
Fri/09 1900	General Members' Meeting	SWYC	Diann Nephew
Sat/17 1200	Sail Fleet race	San Diego Bay	Don Litzenberg
Sat/17 1000	SDCA Cruiser Navigation contest	Host: CCYC	Dave Weimer
Sat-Fri/17-23	National Safe Boating Week	Nationwide	www.safeboatingcouncil.org
Fri-Sun/23-25	Newport to Ensenada Int'l Yacht Race	Newport, CA to Mexico	www.nosa.org
Thur-Sat/29-31	PCYA Barusch Cruiser Navigation Regatta	San Diego and coastal waters	Dave Weimer

Education Department Report (as of 14 February 2008)

by Lt/C Mike Fontaine, AP, SEO

JUNIOR NAVIGATION began 12 February with nine students. This is the new **JN** class that utilizes celestial navigation as a backup to your GPS.

CRUISE PLANNING has an excellent turnout with 18 students in the class that began 15 January. Past Commander Ted Bowler and Treasurer Claudia Bowler teach this class, providing real life experience from their cruises to Alaska and Hawaii.

SEAMANSHIP will begin Tuesday, March 4. This is an opportunity for new members to begin their grades classes and get an "S" behind their name.

The Squadron is still looking for places to hold classes during the **SWYC** remodel. The remodel will take approximately one year. The activities are anticipated to start in June of 2008.

Goodbye and Ahoy!

For the past several years, I have enjoyed your indulgence of my editing *The Ship's Mail*, but there comes a time for an end to everything and, with this issue, I hang up my eyeshade and pen, and move on to other duties. Our squadron photographer, Dan Nephew, has agreed to take up the task of putting out our SDSPS newsletter. I know you will give him the same support and appreciation you have given me by sending in news items and articles and praising his efforts, when they are deserved.

Remember that this is *your newsletter* and it will be interesting only if it has articles that you enjoy reading about *you* and *your activities*. Yes, of course it will contain items related to SDSPS activities; but if there is something you are doing which may be of interest to other squadron members, don't hesitate to send them to Dan, even if they are not directly related to squadron business. Did you have a harrowing brush with a whale? An encounter with a US Coast Guard patrol boat? A close call with a reef or a jetty (that's not *too* embarrassing to relate)? Don't hesitate to send it along and, even if it doesn't get printed in the next edition, you may see your undying prose in print in some future issue.

You can mail copy or photos to: Lt Daniel Nephew, 4627 Cleveland Ave, San Diego, CA 92116, or send him an e-mail at <nephewfamily@yahoo.com>. Good luck, Dan! I hope you have as much fun as I have.

.....P/C Katie Law

The deadline for the May-June 2008 issue of *The Ship's Mail* is 15 Apr 2008. All articles are gratefully considered. *The Ship's Mail* is available in color on the squadron website at www.sdsps.org.

The Ship's Mail
P.O. Box 44 23
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First Class Mail

Save the Date!

Friday, 14 March 08
General Members' Meeting
(See p. 3 for details)