

The Ship's Mail

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SDSPS Members Pursue Full Education Program: Give, Take Courses

by Lt/C Mike Fontaine, AP
Squadron Education Officer

Congratulations to John Anderson, John Barandiaran, Jean-Jacques Bellier, Kent Hildreth, Rosemary Hutzley and Katie Law for their successful completion of the **CRUISE PLANNING CLASS**. This was a well attended class taught by SDSPS Executive Officer Ted Bowler and Treasurer Claudia Bowler. They are able to pass on their extensive cruising experiences on the West coast as well as their recent voyage to Hawaii aboard *Fiddler's Green*, their Bristol Channel Cutter sailboat.

Congratulations are also in order for the recent graduates of the **ADVANCED PILOTING** class: John Alger, Nancy Renzi and Katie Law (again). Thanks to Lt Mike Sampsel, N and P/C Shelley Bakalis, SN, for their dedication in offering this course to our members. The **SAIL** course, which began in mid-April, will be completed in June.

A special 4-week **BOAT SMART CLASS**, beginning Tuesday, May 9th, will be taught to coincide with National Safe Boating Week, May 20-26. Look for details on the SDSPS website, or call Ed Mraz at (760) 943-8865. This is a great class for those new summer boaters. Tell your friends and neighbors.

The last **BOAT SMART CLASS** finished up on 29 March. Seven new members signed up. A **CHART SMART CLASS**, being offered starting April 12 for these BOAT SMART graduates, was taught by P/C Dave Baer.

OPERATIONS TRAINING seminar was given Saturday, 22 April, by P/C Katie Law. If you missed this one, she may be willing to give it again in the fall if there is an interest.

SAIL, taught by Tom Stanford, is completing the first module with four students and will finish in early June.

For those of you who have ever wondered if the shapes of the clouds mean something, you can find out in P/D/C Bill Bridge's **WEATHER** course, which starts on Monday, June 12th. Weather teaches the basic structure and characteristics of the atmosphere, how to interpret weather maps and reports, and how to make your own skilled observations - all keyed to helping you predict and anticipate weather developments affecting your boating plans.

Finally, Lt Dan and Trish Carlin will offer the 7-week **BOATING** course on Wednesday evenings, beginning June 21st at Southwestern Yacht Club. This introduction to safe boating with a segment on digital charting is a "must take" for all new boaters and a fine refresher for those of us who want a review of the basics. Plan now to enlist your boating friends to enroll in this course.

Don't Miss These!

Friday, 12 May, at 1800—*Members' Meeting* at Fiddler's Green Restaurant (\$21). Sign up on the website or call the AO by noon on Thursday, 10 May, to reserve your place and meal.

Friday-Sunday, 2-4 June—*D/28 Summer Council* at the Edgewood Casino, at Laughlin [NV] on the Colorado River. See District website. Reserve by 10 May and get the special \$40 rate for two nights.

Sunday, 9 July, at 1400—*Annual Barbecue & Members' Meeting* at the US Coast Guard Station on Breezy Point (\$5). Attendees **MUST** sign up by Saturday, 1 July, or you won't get in!

DSPS Vessel Examiners Assist Boating Public

by P/C E. Ron Weiner, VSC Chairman

I am pleased to announce that the Sunroad Marina on Harbor Island has agreed to our holding a "Vessel Safety Check Day" at their facility on Saturday, 17 June 2006, from 0900 until 1400. We held this event last year, and our Vessel Examiners were able to perform close to 20 safety checks on boats belonging to marine tenants. We expect some fledging VEs to participate this year and hope they can perform enough practice exams themselves (5 are needed) under the watchful eyes of our currently certified VEs, in order to become fully certified themselves.

It is necessary to pass the on-line VSC examination prior to doing the five supervised VSCs. If you have an interest in becoming a Vessel Examiner, contact me [vsc@sdsp.org; (760)632-8555] and I will give you all the details. In the meantime, if you own a boat and haven't yet had your VSC done, let me know and I'll put you in touch with one of our VEs to arrange an appointment. If you pass, you'll get a US Coast Guard 2006 VSC decal to proudly display on your boat and, if you fail, you'll know what you need to do to get up to speed. If you would just like to see the program in action, join us for an hour or so on June 17th and watch your squadron VEs at work.

The Bridge

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The Ship's Mail is published bimonthly for the members of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc. The purpose of the squadron is to promote safe boating.

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Crossing the Bar

San Diego Sail & Power Squadron has lost one of its most valuable members with the unexpected death in March of P/C Jerry W. Donovan, SN, a Life Member. Jerry had been a member of USPS for 47 years and had 45 merit marks. The measure of affection in which he was held by SDSPS members was evidenced by the large turnout of our group (many in full uniform) to pay our respects at his funeral.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Jerry served on a battleship during WW II, and came to San Diego in the 1970's when he was sent here by General Dynamics Corp., bringing his wife and four daughters. He thereafter transferred his USPS membership to the local squadron.

Although he achieved the rank of Navigator in 1965, Jerry never lost his love of learning and took and passed his last USPS class—Cruise Planning—in 1992. He was also for many years the chief instructor of our Navigation course and coached many a local Power Squadron member through the science and art of celestial navigation. His dedication was recognized in January 1998 when he was awarded the *Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching*, the highest teaching award given by USPS.

Jerry Donovan was commander of the San Diego Power Squadron in 1992, and was a mentor to all subsequent commanders. He rejoiced in his friends and, accompanied by his best friend, Ethel Birgelaitis, was an active participant at this year's Change of Watch by offering the invocation. He will be missed.

We are also sad to report the death in April of P/C Clarence G. "Con" Dahl, who served as squadron commander in 1984. Con, a Nebraska native, arrived in San Diego as a U.S. Marine during WW II. He was CO of the San Diego Marine Base in the early 1970's.

Day at the Docks a Success!

by P/C Shaun McArdle, AP
Ch/Boat Shows

Our thanks for that declining dedicated few who consistently shoulder the load--in this case for staffing our booth at the Day at the Docks. They are: the intrepid Katie Law, who also stores and transports the equipment and materials to boat shows with the help of sidekick Barbara Goddard; Tom Fota, our commander; Duane Leathers; Ron Weiner; Claudia Bowler and her daughter and son-in-law; and the ever dependable Bob Hubbard.

Although thinly manned, the booth is an eye catcher and many of the passersby we expect to see in our boating course. Katie will be quite busy attending to many VSE appointments. Nonetheless, there was time for beer and bratwurst, a \$1.00 tour of the bay on one of the big fishing boats, and a look-see at marine wares exhibited. We had fun!

The next, and probably last, opportunity this year for reaching out to the public via our booth will be on Sunday, May 21st, during Safe Boating Week. Keep tuned for more on that, and please plan on helping out the squadron (while having fun at the same time).



Welcome, New Members!

The ranks of the San Diego Squadron have been swelled by new additions, all graduates of our Boating and Boat Smart classes this winter and spring. The following have joined SDSPS in the past few months: Tom and Olivia Baronner, Ron Bush, Diann Christensen, Charles Linch, James Linch, Michael Melford, Joe and Juanita Munday, Daniel Nephew, Ken Okun and Bruce Robinson.

Administrative Officer's Report

by Lt/C Barbara A. Goddard, P

Many thanks to all who joined us on Friday, 10 March, at Fiddler's Green, for our bi-monthly general members' meeting (GMM). While members' meals were sumptuous and delicious as usual, the highlight of the evening was the interesting anecdotal presentation by docent Joe Ciokin from the San Diego Aircraft Museum. He spoke about the refitting of the USS Midway and the present and future goals of the museum.

The GMM for May will also be at Fiddler's Green. The meeting will be Friday, 12 May, at 1800 (6:00 pm). Those who wish to attend should sign up on the website by noon on Wednesday, the 10th, or call me at (619) 281-3410. The price of your meal, including tip and tax, will be 21.00. The meal choices are Prime Rib, Teriyaki Chicken or the "Fresh Fish of the Day." Please let us know your choice(s) when you sign-up to ensure the kitchen will be prepared.

Save the date! P/D/C Bill Bridge has graciously volunteered once again to arrange for our July barbecue and GMM at the Breezy Point U.S. Coast Guard Station. The date will be Sunday, 9 July, and the picnic/meeting will run from 1400 to 1900 (2 pm to 7 pm). Anyone interested in this fun outing must sign up on the website or phone me. Bill must have a list to submit by July 2nd, and people whose names are not on the list will be refused admission to the site. Members will be asked to bring a dessert of their choice. For \$5.00 per person, the squadron will supply burgers and hot dogs, salad, and drinks, etc. Last year's event was a grand success, so please join us for food, friendship and games.

The Operations Training course, given at Southwestern Yacht Club, on Saturday, 22 April, was led by P/C Katie Law. Attendees were treated to an inside look at the workings of the local squadron, and district and national administration. If you didn't make it to this spring's presentation, check with Katie for a possible future offering.



Did You Know...?

...that May 20th to 26th is National Safe Boating Week? That the United States Power Squadrons® is offering a special schedule of *Boating*™ and *Boat Smart*™ courses across the entire United States during National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). The comprehensive courses offer valuable skill building information, incorporating the latest marine technology, for both experienced and new boaters. As a special offer for National Safe Boating Week, most USPS squadrons will also offer a charting supplement and a CD developed by Maptech, Inc. Now that NOAA is offering free digital charts on its web site, you will want to learn how to use them. The charting supplement will tell you how, and the CD provides the necessary software and sample charts to get you going.

Ernie Marshburn, SN, our Chief Commander, reports that NSBW has been a major factor in the very low accident and fatality rates in boating. "However," continues Marshburn, "with many new boaters entering the market each year, there is an urgent need for boating education. We decided to step up to the plate with a coordinated offering to the public at the start of the boating season – just when families are getting ready to take to the water."

R/C Dick Kyle, USPS National Educational Officer, adds, "We've asked our 450 squadrons to reach out to the public with extra programs during this important week. These boating courses, seminars and demonstrations offer valuable skill building information, incorporating the latest marine technology, for both experienced and new boaters." Kyle points out that USPS is the only organization instructing on the use of digital charting.

With free chart downloads now available from the websites of Maptech [www.freeboatingcharts.com] and NOAA [www.noaa.gov], these programs are particularly relevant. NOAA [the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration] manages the nation's nautical chart program. Maptech distributes NOAA charts in the popular Maptech/BSB format.

San Diego SPS Does Its Part

San Diego Sail & Power Squadron is participating in this National Safe Boating Week effort by giving the *Boat Smart* course—a 4-week program—at Southwestern Yacht Club, beginning on Tuesday, May 9th. P/R/C Ed Mraz, SN, will be the principal instructor. SDSPS members will also staff a booth at the Annual Mission Bay Beach and Boating Festival, given on May 21st, the Sunday during NSBW, where we will pass out fliers publicizing our June 21st *Boating* course (7 Wednesday evenings at Southwestern Yacht Club), and offer the services of our Vessel Examiners to the boating public for free vessel safety checks. **HELP US SAVE LIVES! TAKE ONE OF THESE COURSES AGAIN, AND BRING ALONG YOUR BOATING FRIENDS!**

USPS offers basic boating courses meeting certification requirements in virtually every state. These programs are aimed at building skills and confidence for full enjoyment of our family sport. During National Safe Boating Week, many squadrons will be offering seminars on topics such as Global Positioning System (GPS) and the use of nautical charts and performing demonstrations of various boating and safety equipment.

The United States Power Squadrons is the largest and oldest boating organization in the country, providing boating education since 1914. Today, local squadrons on the American continent, U.S. territories and Japan, provide a wide range of programs - educational, public service and social - for all types of recreational boaters - paddlers, sailors and power boaters - on all types of waters. Member programs cover vital topics for the recreational boater such as weather, sail, cruise planning, marine electronics, and shipboard mechanical systems as well as courses covering inland, coastal and offshore piloting and navigational skills. USPS also has a series of short, informational guides available on retail bookshelves.

Safe Boating through Education!

SDSPS CALENDAR – May/June/July/August 2006

Day/Date/Time	Activity	Site	Contact
May			
Mon/8 1900	Executive Cttee meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Tues/9 1900-2100	Boat Smart Class (4 Tuesdays)	Southwestern YC	Ed Mraz
Fri/12 1800-2100	General members' meeting (GMM)	Fiddler's Green Restaurant	Barbara Goddard
Sat/13 1200	Sail Fleet Race	North Bay	Ted Umland
Sat/20	SD Cruiser Nav. Contest	Host: KKIYC	Dave Weimer
Sun/21 0900-1500	Mission Bay Beach & Boating Festival	To be announced	Shaun McArdle
June			
Sat-Sun [2-4]	Dist 28 Summer Council meeting	Edgewater Casino, Laughlin, NV	Katie Law
Mon/5 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Sat/10 1200	Sail Fleet Race	North Bay	Ted Umland
Sat/10	SD Cruiser Nav. Contest	Host: SWYC	Dave Weimer
Sat/17 0900-1400	Vessel Safety Check Day	Sun Road Marina	Ron Weiner
July			
Sat/8 1200	Sail Fleet Race	North Bay	Ted Umland
Sat/8	San Luis Rey SPS BBQ	Oceanside	
Sat/9 1400-1900	Annual BBQ and GMM	USCG Station (Breezy Pt)	Barbara Goddard
Mon/10 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Sat/22	SD Cruiser Nav. Contest	Hosts: MBYC/CCYC	Dave Weimer
August			
Fri-Sun [4-6]	D/28 Coastal Rendezvous	La Playa Cove	Marie Baer
Mon/7 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Sat/12 1200	Sail Fleet Race	Offshore	Ted Umland
Tues-Sun [15-20]	USPS Governing Board	Grand Hyatt, NYC	Tom Fota
Sat/19	SD Cruiser Nav Contest	Host: SGYC	Dave Weimer
Mon/28 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota

Our Far-Flung Correspondents

Stephen and Alberta Gawura are still "alive and kicking." Steve reports that last November he was hospitalized with a heart problem but, after insertion of a stent, is now in rehab and feeling better. Bertie had a recent bout with gall stones but, after five days in the hospital, left without them and is also "feeling pretty good."

While life in a retirement community is not terribly exciting, they occasionally visit a casino or nearby attraction. They have buddies with whom they share a common passion: an activity called "geocaching," a kind of treasure hunt for benchmarks (the little brass disks placed by surveyors around

America by the US Coast & Geodetic Survey to aid in map-making). We USPS members call the searching/reporting of these little disks "coop charting," and we combine it with also making reports about aids to navigation and on-the-water conditions.

The February 2, 2006, issue of the *Livermore [CA] Independent* contained an article about Steve's adventures recovering hundreds of benchmarks while he lived in San Diego. He is still at it in Northern California, with his endeavors now aided by a hand-held GPS. The Gawuras would love to hear from their SDSPS buddies: 900 S. Stanley Blvd #396, Livermore CA 94550.

General Members' Meeting - Friday, 12 May 2006

Where: Fiddler's Green Restaurant, 2760 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego

When: No-host cocktails at 1800, dinner at 1830, brief meeting at 1900

Program: **Bareboating in the Virgin Islands**, presented by Ted & Claudia Bowler

Reservations are required! Please respond by Wednesday **noon, 10 May**, to Lt/C Barbara A. Goddard, ao@sdsps or call [619-281-3410], and indicate choice of entrée: Prime Rib, Teriyaki Chicken, or Fresh Catch of the Day (all with fresh vegetables, rice pilaf, soup or salad, bread & butter, and dessert. Pay cash [\$21] at the door or by check to "SDSPS."

Sun Sense

It's that time of year again, and all San Diego boaters should be donning sunscreen before leaving the docks. Dermatologists recommend an SPF 15 or higher for maximum summer protection. ["SPF 15" means you can stay out in the sun 15 times as long without burning than if you were unprotected.]

A million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year, ultimately resulting in over 8,000 deaths from malignant melanoma. You can significantly reduce your chances of being one of these statistics by recognizing the dangers of over-exposure and applying a broad-spectrum

sunscreen, developed to protect against both UV-A and UV-B rays. Cover the face, arms, legs, back of the neck, ears, hands and feet. Be especially careful to cover up any children.

Check the predicted intensity of exposure by visiting www.epa.gov/sunwise and clicking on the UV index on the left hand menu, and typing in the zip code of your locality. Do not assume you'll be protected just by being in the shade of the sail or going out on a cloudy day, since—even if the sun is hidden—80 percent of the sun's harmful UV rays can penetrate cloud cover, and as much as 40 percent of rays reflect off water or sand.

Reapply every 90 minutes to ensure full protection and, if swimming, after you come out of the water. Also remember to throw away and replace last year's bottles, as sunscreen has a limited shelf life, losing its effectiveness over time.

Finally, don't ignore signs of damage you notice on your own skin. The American Academy of Dermatology has a free skin cancer screening program, which may be accessed by web at: www.aad.org/professionals/SkinCancerScreenings/skincancerscreen.htm. Just enter "CA" or your location for the nearest participating screening. Here comes the sun, so cover up and enjoy!

The deadline for the July-August issue of *The Ship's Mail* is 15 June 2006. All articles will be gratefully considered.

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