

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



Mark 4



Official Publication of District 4 - A Unit of United States Power Squadrons



Winter 2024



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*May You Never
Be Too Old To
Play in the
Snow*

Welcome To 2024!

OK. It's a bit late for the new year greeting, but it's also a bit early for that greeting with respect to the changes of watch for the district and for many squadrons.

In this Mark 4 issue, we share Cdr Ted's year-end/new year message. We provide a photographic look back at some of the holiday events within the district. Following that, we share information on several significant upcoming events, including Staten Island's ABC3 course, our District Spring Conference, and the D/4 Memorial Service. Also, as a reminder, time is short to get in on the September cruise that is being sponsored by Staten Island squadron.

Lastly, we share an old nugget with boating-related safety resolutions as well as some "news you can use".

As always, Mark 4 welcomes articles and other notifications of your events and activities. Please send them to :

D4Comm@uspsdistrict4.org

Feel free to contact me with questions and suggestions at: cjvarga@optimum.net or by phone at (732)673-1383.



Commander's Message

D/C Ted Wallace, AP-IN

As we navigate through the seas of life, it is time to drop anchor and reflect on the year gone by. As your humble commander, I want to extend my sincere hope that, however you celebrated these recent holidays, you had a joyous season filled with happiness, joy, and the company of your loved ones. May this year bring peace, good health, and even more happiness to all of you.

Our boating adventures were nothing short of spectacular this past year, and it warmed my heart to see the camaraderie and enthusiasm within our tight-knit family of boaters. Whether we sailed through calm waters or weathered the storms of life together, each moment strengthened the bonds that make us a resilient and remarkable boating family.

At this time of new beginnings, let us take a moment to contemplate the beauty of the open sea, the serenity of a sunset cruise, and the thrill of the wind in our sails. May your lives be as bright as a lighthouse beacon and as peaceful as a quiet cove.

As we toast the past year and eagerly anticipate the adventures that lie ahead, let us also spare a thought for those who are less fortunate. Consider offering a helping hand to those in need and extend the spirit of giving that marked the recent magical season.

Our United States Power Squadrons boating group is more than just a collection of vessels; it is a community of like-minded, caring individuals bound together by a shared love for the open water. I am grateful to have each of you as a part of our District 4 seafaring family.

May your lives be filled with laughter, warmth, and the gentle rocking of the waves. Here is to fair winds, smooth seas, and a new year brimming with exciting voyages and adventures.

Wishing you all a happy, successful, and healthful 2024.

Cdr Ted

Staten Island Sail & Power Continues to Share the Happiness

For the 38th year, the Staten Island squadron hosted its annual fundraiser to benefit the New York Foundling Hospital. Squadron Commander Don Heap reported that this year's campaign was a great success, bringing smiles to the faces of children whose parents couldn't afford to buy presents.

On December 14, 2023, the elves of the Staten Island squadron delivered 74 stuffed toys, other assorted toys, and \$125 in gift cards, along with a check for \$3200 and a money order for \$300 to the New York Foundling Hospital on Staten Island. Emilio Hernandez, the new director of the outreach program, was excited to receive such a generous donation. He assured us that the gifts would go directly to the children of Staten Island. Those children surely had a wonderful Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanza, all because of people like you.

Over the 38 years that Staten Island squadron has sponsored this campaign, more than \$103,625 and thousands of gifts were donated to the children of New York Foundling Hospital. The elves of SISPS and chief elf Don Heap wish to express their thanks to everyone who generously donated to this cause. It made a positive difference.



Staten Island Squadron Holiday Party

Nino's Restaurant

December 5, 2023



Members Bernie Blomquist and Dennis Genovese display their well-deserved 50 merit mark certificates. Congrats!



Raritan Bay and Shrewsbury Squadrons Have Twice the Fun at Joint Holiday Party

December 2, 2023

Clubhouse at The Commons, Old Bridge, NJ



When two squadrons get together to have a party, then you have a real party. Here are some of the A-list attendees. From left, Walter Graczyk, Rich Fiorentini, Cdr Joe Balbo, and Mae Louie.



Raritan Bay friends Joan Varga and Serenella Stahl have a chat with fellow members P/C Dan Green and his wife, Sharon.



Nice looking group of friends from our Shrewsbury neighbors. From left: Jackie Lease, Bill Lease, Joe Balbo (partially hidden), D/C Ted Wallace, Mae Louie, and Walter Graczyk.



Enough with the snacks already! Bring on the real food. Our friends are (from left) Helen McTernan, Jim McTernan, D/C Ted Wallace, Rose, and P/D/C Carlton Lee.



A cheerful group of squadron holiday revelers. At left, guest Joe Spera and his charming wife. Across the table, P/C Bob Stahl, P/C Manny Alvarez, and P/C Jim Spera.



Nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven. It was almost a shame to cut into this tasty work of art. On the other hand, you can't argue with delicious.

City Island Celebrates the Holidays in Style at Modern on the Rails, Mamaroneck, NY

December 3, 2023



D/4 Holiday Party Hosted by Watchung Squadron at Spanish Tavern, Mountainside, NJ

December 3, 2023



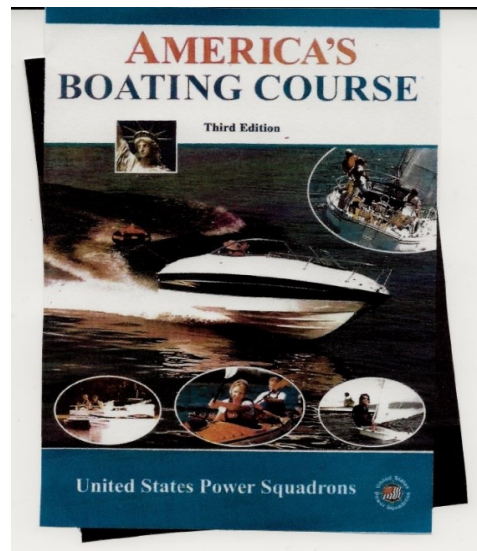
More From D/4 Holiday Party

Gift Exchange (Choose a Gift or Steal a Gift)



Take the Finest Boater Education And Safety Course Available!

- 3 day course
- Coast Guard Approved
- Reduces Boat Insurance Premiums
- Certificate valid for NY State Education requirements will be Issued upon completion



Class Schedule (3 days limited to 20 people)

Monday Feb. 5, 2024 – 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Tuesday Feb. 6, 2024, - 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Monday Feb. 12, 2024 – 7:00pm – 10:00pm

The cost is \$50 per person

This includes coffee, cake, registration, books and instructions.

Join us at...

Richmond County Yacht Club

142 Mansion Ave.

Staten Island, NY 10308

For more information and to pre-register & pay (no Walk-ins Please)

Contact... Dennis Genovese – 718-984-3418 or Jim DiMeo – 718-356-4712

Registration deadline is February 2, 2024.

Given by... Staten Island Sail and Power Squadron

Boating is Fun... We'll Show You How!



USPS DISTRICT 4

SPRING CONFERENCE/ANNUAL MEETING/CHANGE OF WATCH

DATE: Saturday, March 9, 2024

REGISTRATION: 9:30 am

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 am

PLACE: Holiday Inn

36 Valley Road, Clark, NJ 07077

(732)574-0100

COST: \$50 per person

Lunch Buffet, tossed salad, entree choice of chicken, fish, pasta,
Vegetables, dessert, coffee & tea

Remittance Due Date: February 24, 2024

Payment must arrive by this date in order to provide headcount to Venue. ADDITIONALLY, please also call or email Joel to let him know you are planning to attend.

SEND CHECKS TO: D/Lt Joel Jones, Jr., SN
(payable to "D4-USPS") 4 Hampshire Road

Toms River, NJ 08757

Phone: (732)330-7726

Email: joelcjones714@gmail.com

ATTIRE: Uniform A, USPS blazer or appropriate business attire

Yes, Commander Wallace. I'll be there on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Enclosed is my check for _____ for _____ persons at \$50 per person.

Last Name	First Name	Rank/Title	Squadron	Contact Number

Annual District 4 Memorial Service



Please plan to join your fellow District 4 members at this touching memorial service that honors the memory of those USPS members who passed away in 2023. The service is non-sectarian. Immediately following, there is a reception with light refreshments in the parish hall next to the church.

Where: St Alban's Episcopal Church

**76 St. Alban's Place, Eltingville
Staten Island, NY 10312-5131**

When: Sunday, March 17, 2024

Service Starts at 2:00 PM

Reception in the Church Hall: 3:00 - 4:00 PM right after the service

For those bringing food or dessert, please drop off by 1:30pm or sooner to allow sufficient set up time.

If you would like to donate any amount of money toward the alter flowers it would be greatly appreciated.

Need the names of the D/ 4 shipmates who have Crossed the Bar from April 2023 to March 2024. DEADLINE is March 1, 2024

If you need any more additional information, please call me Trisha Bolt 917-885-8604 Email trishabolt@verizon.net

Thank you again for all your support and help all these 43 years.

**STATEN ISLAND POWER SQUADRON
ANNOUNCES OUR 2024 GROUP CRUISE
SEPTEMBER 22, THROUGH SEPTEMBER
29, 2024 FROM NEW YORK
ABOARD NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE'S
"BREAKAWAY"
7-DAYS TO CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND**

**PORTS OF CALL: NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND – PORTLAND, MAINE -
BAR HARBOR, MAINE- SAINT JOHN, NEW FOUNDLAND & HALIFAX,
NOVA SCOTIA**

**OUR SPECIAL GROUP RATE: \$1362 PER PERSON BASED ON
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

FOR A CATEGORY BB BALCONY – OCEANVIEW STATEROOM

**RATE INCLUDES: ALL TAXES, OPEN BAR (BEER, WINE, SODA & COCKTAILS) –
2 NIGHTS DINING IN A SPECIALTY RESTAURANT- \$50 SHORE EXCURSION DIS-
COUNT PER ROOM- 150 MINUTES OF INTERNET PER PERSON**

NOT INCLUDED: GRATUITES AND OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

\$125 PER PERSON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT WILL RESERVE YOUR ROOM

BALANCE IS DUE: MAY 15

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL SAL SCANNELLA AT

PRINCESS TRAVEL: 917 797 4959

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS: SUGGESTIONS FROM AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

The following article was first written by Bill Hempel, who was a feature writer for United States Power Squadrons some years ago. We continue to find this sage advice and worthwhile resolutions for every recreational boater. A tip of the hat to Bill Hempel.

I'm an experienced boater: resolutions you ask?

Remembering rules is really a task.

To set the record straight and clear the confusion,

Let me explain my New Year's resolutions.

I'll turn on my blower, when cruising at slow

'Cause CO is odorless and deadly, you know.

I'll check all my flares especially their date.

In an emergency, there's no time to wait.

I wear a life jacket when voyaging around,

in most fatalities, the victim is drowned.

I'll vow CPR to learn and more

When emergency's aboard, help's away on the shore

When pumping my fuel I'll surely take care

Flying is fun, but not blown in the air.

When setting my anchor, its 7 to 1

'Cause drifting on shoals is really no fun.

I'll monitor my fuel, the rule of thirds

Going to empty, is more than absurd.

I'll check the forecast and watch the sky

with rain you get wet, but with lightning you die.

I'll go into new waters; chart and GPS 'in hand

what looks tawny water, could actually be land.

There's navigational hazards, pilings, shoals as you know.

And local charts could save you a tow.

With a man overboard, my engines I'll stop

And avoid lancing him with my razor sharp prop.

And I'll never use alcohol when I'm the skipper

For under the influence we become Jack the Ripper

I truly love cruising: avoid every mistake.

But there's times I forget my vessel's big wake.

In the spirit of the New Year I'll take time to pause.

Remembering the injuries that those waves could cause

These are my resolutions along with explanations

a safer boater is my expectation.

I'll do things right and forget my remorse.

Everyone needs US Power Squadron courses.

Happy and Safe New Year

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Our DEO Richard Mohrbutter has been conducting virtual Instructor Recertification seminars in December and January. These 2-hour videoconferencing sessions provide the ability to get your squadron's instructors current on the latest tips and techniques for teaching a class or seminar.

Although USPS does not require instructors to have current certification (except for ABC3 courses and when offering classes and seminars to non-members), it is well worthwhile to examine the current certification status of your squadron's instructor corps. In addition, it is important for all squadrons to have a robust team of instructors in order to take advantage of any teaching opportunity that comes along.

If you wish to get yourself or other instructors in your squadron recertified, please contact DEO Richard Mohrbutter at richardthejunkcollector@gmail.com.

At the Fall 2023 Governing Board meeting, an interesting report from the national PlanCom was included in the seat packet. In that report, R/C Kenneth Smith reported what he called an “insurmountable impasse” in the process of trying to develop a new 5-year plan for USPS/ABC.

He opined that overcoming this impasse requires the organizational leadership to take steps that include deciding who we are as an organization, what we truly want and need to be, and whether we have the financial and human resources to achieve the goals that result from those answers.

Your Mark 4 editor thought the report was a thoughtful which all members at every level of USPS should read and consider. As we are at the start of a new calendar year, and will shortly be starting to hold new changes of watch across the district, these are good questions for us to consider and discuss. We sometimes question the relevance and marketability of our educational offerings and our organization. Let’s put our heads together and plan to ensure that we move through this year successfully as we work to build a safer, more competent, and more confident recreational boating community.

The PlanCom report from that Fall GB meeting can be found on the USPS website under “National Meetings”. Click on “seat packet contents” and select “2023 PlanCom”.