

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



Mark 4



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



Winter 2024-25



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Baby, it's cold outside!

That's my not very subtle way to remind you that we have passed the Winter solstice. We are in astronomical winter. Bad news for boaters. But the good news is that from here on out, each day will be a little bit longer. Before you know it, it will be summer again. Great news for boaters.

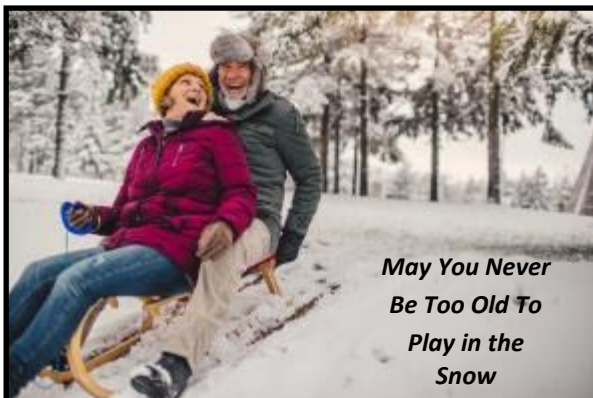
This issue is largely dedicated to sharing photos and information about squadron and district activities since the last Mark 4 issue. So I'll leave it to you to browse the many photographs from those events. If your squadron had a recent event that is not included in this issue, let me know so we can get it in the next issue.

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.

I want to take the opportunity to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed content to Mark 4 in the past year. I want to especially thank P/D/C Rich Pfaff for his dedication to ensuring each issue is error-free and readable.



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



Commander's Message

D/C Joe Velez, AP

My fellow members of District 4,

Winter is upon us and as we wind down 2024, we celebrate the various December holidays including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and others.

It is common at this time of year to look back on the ending year. We will reflect on special events and occasions. We will recall the highlights and low points, the accomplishments as well as unfulfilled hopes and dreams. What was and what could have been.

With a new calendar year looming, many of us use this time to take stock of ourselves and our situations and we will make resolutions for changing some aspects of our lives. Ideally, we will use our self-assessment of the past year, deciding what things we might wish to change, what things we can't and being able to recognize the differences.

For me personally, as your District Commander, I look back on 2024 with gratitude. It was a quiet year for D/4. I feel blessed that we have an experienced bridge team, ready and able to move us forward to a future of growth and accomplishment.

My personal resolutions for 2025 include doing better planning and doing more to set expectations for my team. I resolve to provide more direction and follow-through to ensure that we are doing the right things in the right way. I also resolve to seek more ways and opportunities to foster cross-squadron collaboration in planning and conducting activities of every kind. I resolve to do whatever I can to ensure the continuing health and viability of every D/4 squadron. We must strive to be ready and able to help each other conduct educational, civic service, social and other activities even where any single squadron lacks the resources to act alone.

I offer this resolution to all members of District 4. Let us resolve to be just a little more active and involved in our squadrons in 2025. Let us resolve to attend one more meeting, participate in one more event, volunteer for one thing. Let us all resolve to do just a little bit more in 2025 to keep our squadrons healthy and vibrant and growing.

As you read this message, we may be well into the holiday festivities of the season. Nonetheless, my wife Charlene and I wish you and your loved ones all the best for the holidays. May your family have a holiday season that is full of wonderful surprises, treats and nonstop joy. We wish you nothing but health, wealth and endless blessings in the new year ahead.

Cordially,

Joe Velez

Staten Island Sail & Power Brings Joy For The 39th Consecutive Year

On December 9, 2024, the elves of the Staten Island Sail and Power Squadron delivered 75 stuffed animals and assorted toys and a check for the amount of \$2,700.00 and separate checks for \$300.00 to the New York Foundling Hospital at 1 Edgewater Plaza on Staten Island. For the 39th 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 behalf of the squadron, Cdr Don Heap expressed his thanks to all contributors.

"I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your generous donation to our annual New York Foundling fundraiser. Your donation will bring a smile to a child whose parents can't afford to buy presents. This year's campaign has been a great success."

Emelio Hernandez, director of the outreach program, was excited to receive such a generous donation and assured us that it will go directly to the children on Staten Island. "The children will have a wonderful Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanza all because of YOU!"

Over the 39 years that Staten Island squadron has sponsored this campaign, more than \$106,250 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. Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Healthy New Year! - Commander Donald Heap SN, Chairman



Staten Island Squadron's 2024 New England Cruise

On September 22, 2024, thirty-eight Staten Island Sail & Power Squadron members and friends departed Manhattan on the cruise ship Norwegian Breakaway for a seven day trip to five ports of call in New England and Atlantic Canada. Our first stop was to Newport R.I., where we were offered wonderful sightseeing tours to see the mansions of the golden era wealthy. (They referred to them as cottages.) Our second port call was in Boston where we got to experience a lot of the rich history of our country's colonial and early national events beginnings. Our third stop was in Portland Maine. We got to sample the rich seafood available at the beautiful dockside restaurants. The fourth day found us walking around St. Johns in Newfoundland, Canada. We got to go down to the shoreline and observe the tidal changes. While we were there, low tide was 53 feet at the Bay of Fundy in Canada. Our fifth day found us in the metropolitan city of Halifax, Canada where we could enjoy walking around and seeing the quaint shops of this seaport. On day six, we enjoyed a delightful cruise back to New York, where we docked on the morning of day seven.

Everyone who participated in this trip said they had a wonderful time. The travelers of this group included SISPS members as well as members from three local yacht clubs. Many of them asked when and where our next trip would be. Spoiler alert– Our next trip will be to Bermuda, planned for June 8-15, 2025 on the Celebrity Silhouette, sailing from Cape Liberty in Bayonne, N.J. Still space available.



Staten Island Squadron Celebrates 90th Anniversary With Gala Dinner-Dance October 6, 2024

Opening address from Cdr Don Heap: Thank you for coming to this monumental occasion. We have been teaching safe boating to the public since 1934. In that time, we have educated thousands of people and had a good time also. We at Power Squadron are members of a fraternity of men and women who care for boating and the safety of others. In the past 40 years SISPS has donated to the New York Foundling Hospital on Staten Island over \$105,000 and thousands of toys and stuffed animals for the children who are less fortunate. This undertaking was started by P/C Larry and Ann Morgan in 1984.

In 2010 I associated the Power Squadron with the National Lighthouse Museum in Saint George, and since that time SISPS has circulated the word of the existence of the Museum throughout the New York and New Jersey area. Linda Dianto, Executive Director, in 2014 nominated SISPS to receive the Wind Beneath our Wings award for helping expand membership in the Museum and helping open the doors to the Museum.

From the beginning in 1934 Staten Island Sail and Power Squadron has completed the United States Power Squadrons, (Americas Boating Club), triad of Fraternity, Civic Service and Education. Thank You All again for celebrating this great occasion.



D/4 Fall Conference Holiday Inn, Clark NJ November 16, 2024

The District Fall Conference was held on November 16, 2024, at the Holiday Inn hotel in Clark, N.J. Although attendance was somewhat small with about forty-two members and guests, the attendees eagerly participated in the event. We received a message from C/C Ralph Bernard describing a few key HQ initiatives. He also provided an update on status of our liability insurance coverage issue and efforts in progress to address it. We received a presentation from USCG Cdr Brandon Aten of the New York sector. He described the various responsibilities of the USCG beyond the traditional search & rescue tasks. We also learned the identity of our D/4 2024 nominee for the Charles F. Chapman Award. Congratulations to City Island's Lt Franz C. Alvarez. We wish him well at the national level. Finally, USPS National Law Officer R/C Ruth Witztum gave a deep dive on the progress of efforts with the insurance issue.



D/C Joe and Charlene engage in a pre-conference mix and mingle with our D/3 VIP guests.



Participants and guests wait in anticipation for the Chief Commander Bernard's message to the conference.

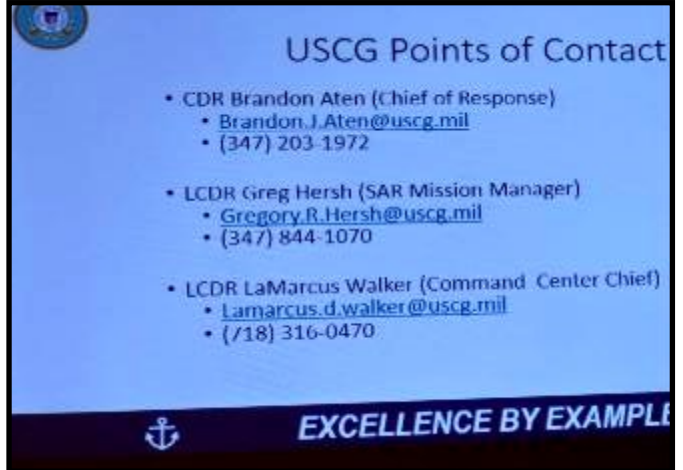
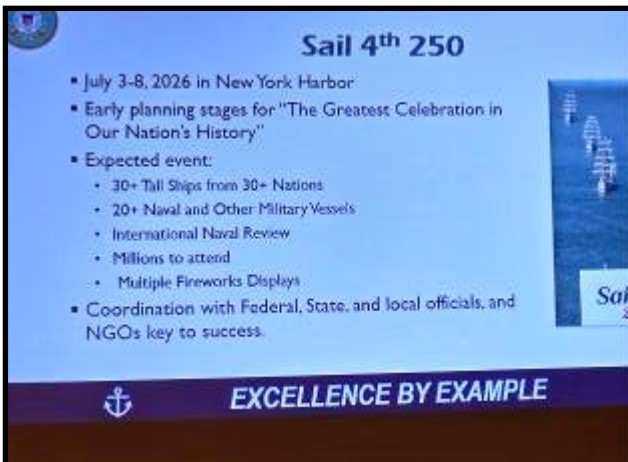


P/D/C Joe Balbo makes a brief report on the previous Governing Board meeting and introduces the C/C's message.



C/C Ralph Bernard reports on the status of HQ initiatives and the status of solutions to our insurance issue.

More from D/4 Fall Conference



D/4 Holiday Party Spanish Tavern, Mountainside, NJ December 8, 2024



Photos courtesy of P/R/C Michael Friedman

More From D/4 Holiday Party (And Gift Exchange)



Raritan Bay and Shrewsbury Squadrons Second Annual Commanders' Open House & Holiday Party

December 14, 2024



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

SAD NEWS

Dear Friends and Shipmates,

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of two of our dear friends and esteemed Past District 4 Commanders.

P/D/C Jane B. Sorensen, AP, crossed the bar on November 20, 2024 and was laid to rest on December 2nd. P/D/C Ted Wallace attended the service and delivered the eulogy. Those wishing to honor Jane's memory can do so by making a donation in her name to the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822.

P/D/C William "Bill" Delahunty, JN, crossed the bar on November 25, 2024 and was laid to rest on December 4th. Condolences may be sent to Susanne Delahunty, 58 Tuckahoe Ave., Eastchester, NY 10709. Phone: 914-793-5845. Email: billsuedelahunty@gmail.com

All who knew Jane and Bill will deeply miss their dedication to our organization, invaluable contributions, guidance, leadership and most of all their friendship. We will remember them in our 2025 District 4 Memorial Service planning, currently under development.

On Deck

Attention District 4 members:

Please keep in mind the following two events in 2025:

1. In early April we plan to hold our District Spring Conference.
 - The date and venue for the conference has not been finalized as yet.
2. The Annual D/4 Memorial Service is planned to be held in the week following the Spring Conference.

We ask that you watch for further information about these two significant district events. Look for information on the district website (www.uspsdistrict4.org) or via the Spring issue of Mark 4.