

The River Skipper

A publication of the St Paul Sail and Power Squadron, District 10, a unit of
United States Power Squadrons Inc. America's Boating Club

Volume 44, Issue 2

March, 2007

BINGO/DINNER

FUNDRAISER FOR CAMPERSHIPS YMCA CAMP ST CROIX
SUNDAY APRIL 29TH, 2007

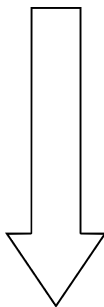
DIGIDIO'S RESTAURANT— 425 W. 7TH ST. , ST PAUL
BINGO WILL BE PLAYED FROM 1400-1700 HOURS
CASH PRIZES EACH GAME! RAFFLE PRIZES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE
WE NEED RAFFLE PRIZES— CAN YOU DONATE?

1400-1900 HOURS

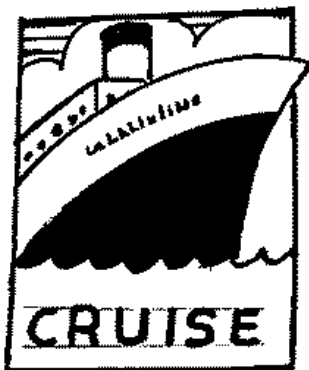
Italian Dinner will be served at 1700 hours for only \$15.00 tax and gratuity included.
More information to come!

Summer Squadron Cruise

A trip with friends, family and fellow members to Dubuque, Iowa, using the same form of transportation that has been in use before cars, trains or planes, is a trip to remember. Don't miss your ticket to adventure. If you have ever wondered what it would be like, please join us as skipper or crew.



The trip will be run as a convoy so that the skippers who have made this trip before are available to help. If you have any desire to make this trip, please set aside the time. If you can make only one segment of the trip as crew, that is ok, too. Please let Art Mollica know. There is more information on this trip on page 3



DEPART: Lake Pepin MN 21 July, 2007

ARRIVE: Dubuque, Iowa, 23 July, 2007

DEPART: Dubuque, Iowa, 25 July, 2007

ARRIVE: Lake Pepin, MN 28 July, 2007

ENROUTE: A trip of a lifetime. See what Mark Twain was writing about! There is still room to crew or skipper. Presently 9 boats are signed up. **Don't miss out. Contact Art Mollica if you are interested 651-777-0277 (May 15 Deadline)**

2007 Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 21-24	USPS Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL
March 6	Sail Class begins, ABI (6 weeks)
March 12	Executive Committee Meeting, Davanni's
March 15	Weather Class begins, ABI (10 weeks)
March 24	First Aid Presentation - Bayport Marina
April 9	Executive Committee Meeting, Davanni's
April 13-15	D-10 Spring Conference, Stevens Point, WI
April 29	Bingo Fundraiser - DeGidio's
July 6-8	D-10 Summer Rendezvous—Treasure Island Marina
July 20-29	SPSPS Summer Cruise to Dubuque
Sept 4-9	USPS Governing Board—Norfolk, Virginia

DEFINITIONS:

Coop Charting-

Cooperative Charting Program of the United States Power Squadrons is conducted in close coordination with the Marine Chart Division, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Program is a major public service of USPS. Under it, members supply information to the Marine Chart Division of NOS/NOAA leading to corrections to nautical charts, small craft charts, and Coast Pilot publications. They also supply data on depth surveys, range status, geodetic marks, and formerly, aeronautical charts. The Adopt-A-Chart subprogram enables individual squadrons to adopt a chart in their location and get recognition on new editions for their work. We have been told that the Cooperative Charting Program is recognized as the most effective user-participation program in all of the Federal services.

Vessel Safety Check -

The VSC process is one of "prevention through education, outreach and volunteer compliance" helping recreational boaters to gain a respect for the boating environment.

The VSC Program also helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through voluntary contact by a Vessel Examiner (VE). VE discussions with recreational boaters is designed to motivate maintaining and operating their boats in a safe manner, taking boating safety courses to increase their knowledge and skills in boating, and promoting safe boating.

The Executive Committee meets monthly at 7:00PM at Davanni's Restaurant, I-94 & White Bear Avenue on a date noted above. All members are welcome, invited, and encouraged to attend.

2006 Leadership

Commander

Mark Fotsch, AP
651-489-6733
mfotsch9@hotmail.com

Executive Officer

Jeff Davis, AP
651-457-0588
captjd75@aol.com

Administrative Officer

Nancy Anderson, S
651-433-3247
nandaleco@frontiernet.net

Educational Officer

Bob McElrath, AP
651-653-1913
robmcclrath@aol.com

Ass't Educational Officer

Art Mollica, SN
651-777-0277
artmollica@usfamily.net

Secretary (new number)

Bart Cedergren, P
651-455-0665
cedergren_group@msn.com

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Marty Wirtz, AP
651-351-7167
bugi1959@aol.com

Members-at-Large

Garrett Weyer, AP
Mark Hafner

Past Commander

Ron Bakken, AP
763-783-1887

Membership Chair

Andrea Davis, AP
651-457-0588

Nominating Chair

Greg Holmen, AP
651-739-4502

Rules Chair

Art Mollica, SN
651-777-0277

Audit Chair

Greg Holmen, AP
651-739-4502

Building Fund Chair

Don Anderson, P
763-588-8578

Editor

Bob Schmit, AP
952-435-3362

The River Skipper is published monthly for the members of **St Paul Sail and Power Squadron Inc.** Opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policy of, nor imply agreement with the Editor, St Paul Sail and Power Squadron, Inc., District 10 or USPS. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject or revise submitted articles.

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NOTE NEW DATES!

NINE BOATS ALREADY SIGNED UP!

Squadron Cruise To Dubuque July 20-29th

Now is the time to schedule your vacation time (if needed) and make your commitment to join fellow squadron members for the summer cruise to Dubuque.

Don't have a boat or one you think capable of making the trip—**no problem**, there is space for crew-members on the boats already signed on for the cruise and as more boats join, more space will become available.

Spouse won't let you spend a weeks' vacation on the water.—again **no problem**, come by car and join us at one of the nightly stops where the days journey will be retold and maybe a Bent Prop nominee found.

What's so interesting in Dubuque, other than it is within a week's river trip?

Current itinerary:

Friday 20 Jul—assemble the fleet on Lake Pepin;
 Saturday 21 Jul—depart Lake Pepin, cruise to LaCrosse, WI, overnight at **Pettibones Marina**
 Sunday 22 Jul—cruise to McGregor Iowa, overnight at **Boatel's Marina**
 Monday 23 Jul—cruise to Dubuque arriving early afternoon, **Dubuque Yacht Basin**
 Tuesday 24 Jul—visit Dubuque area
 Wednesday 25 Jul—depart early afternoon and beach or raft-up overnight near Prairie Du Chien, WI
 Thursday 26 Jul—cruise to LaCrosse, overnight at **Black River Marina**
 Friday 27 Jul—cruise to Winona for visit to **Minnesota Marine Art Museum**, overnight city riverfront
 Saturday 28 Jul—arrive in Lake Pepin with a farewell dinner at **The Norton's** in Bay City, WI.
 Sunday 29 Jul—return to home port.

FENELON PLACE ELEVATOR -

the world's shortest, steepest, scenic railway, 296 feet in length, almost straight up, offering magnificent views of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin.

MATHIAS HAM HOUSE -

an 1856 Italianate mansion with elegant Victorian furnishings reflecting the splendor and beauty of nineteenth century life along the river. Tours led by costumed guides.

BIG MUDDY GHOST HUNTERS -

dedicated to the study, investigation, and preservation of the history of ghosts and spirits on the Upper Mississippi.

TOURS OF DUBUQUE -

by both carriage and trolley car.

FRED W. WOODWARD RIVERBOAT MUSEUM -

life-sized exhibits, climb on the floating log raft, see master boat builders bending ribs in the small boat shop.

THE PFOHL BOATYARD -

watch the launch of a riverboat into the waters of Ice Harbor, tour the towboat Logsdon.

STEAMBOAT WILLIAM M. BLACK -

walk the decks of this 1934 steamer and tour the engine room and pilothouse. A National Landmark vessel, nearly the size of a football field.

JOIN THE FLEET, CONTACT THE CRUISE CHAIRS

TO INSURE OVERNIGHT SLIPS, WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU BY MAY 15th

Art & Jenny Mollica

651-777-0277

artmollica@usfamily.net

From the Commander's Desk

Welcome to the 2007 watch year! The Change of Watch dinner was held on February 17 at ideal hall in St. Paul. There were great speeches given by District Commander Bob Stierna and Past Rear Commander Hal Fotsch. Thank you both for attending the St. Paul Change of Watch and swearing in the new 2007 commander and bridge.

The 2006 bridge was awarded and acknowledged for their excellent service to the St. Paul squadron. Ron Bakken has preformed wonderfully as commander during the 2006 watch year and has paved the way for a successful 2007 watch year. Thank you Ron for all your time and effort in leading the St. Paul Sail and Power Squadron through the 2006 watch year.

Bob Schmit has completed his three-year term as our educational officer. The title of educational officer carries the future of the squadron. Our mission to educate fellow boaters is our number one goal. To join our ranks in the squadron every member needs to pass the public boat smart class. This is very important to note because if we are to grow in membership we first must succeed in education. Bob has organized every instructor for all boat smart classes and advanced grades for the past three years. He has graded tests and made sure all materials were present at each class. Thank you Bob for all your hard work and dedication to the squadron.

This year we are going to reach out to all boaters by hosting some exciting new events. By posting signs and advertising our mission we fill our classrooms with future members and make the waters safer through education. If you know of friends and family who are interested in boating don't hesitate to invite them to a class. They can call our hot online number at (952)-472-9300 and sign up. We are going to continue the calling committee and reach out to our current members. The squadron is also a fraternal organization that likes to have fun. If you missed the dance at the change of watch we will be contacting you to come to the next event. Each month this year we will be hosting an exciting event, please look at our events calendar on the second page of every issue of the newsletter. The new 2007 bridge and I are honored to lead a strong group of boaters and look forward to visiting with you at the events this year.

Commander Mark Fotsch, AP



The new bridge for 2007- (*left to right*) Garrett Weyer, Jeff Davis, Nancy Anderson, Mark Fotsch, Bart Cedergren, Marty Wirtz, Mark Hafner, (not shown- Bob McElrath)

From the Executive officer—

Do you have access to a computer, ability to go “online” and time to spend a few minutes? Take time to go to USPS.org. Search the site index for items of interest to you! There is a wealth of knowledge and information in those pages—everything you always wanted to know and more! Now, if that “few minutes” becomes hours---it will be time well spent! See if you can find the names of our members—R/C Art Mollica, SN and Stf/C Andrea Davis, AP on that site—and email/call me when you do! I have a prize for the first person to contact me with where on that website you found that information (and Art and Andrea, you cannot win☐)

As the newly elected Executive officer, my job will be to work mainly with Public relations, Vessel Safety Checks, and Coop Charting—you know—finding those

geodetic survey marks. And I welcome and encourage your participation. Call me at 651-457-0588 or email me at captjd75@aol.com and we can find something for you to do—Just ask member Mark Hafner who recently expressed an interest in Coop Charting and now has marks in the Hudson area to be searching for as he is out and about! Thanks, Mark and thanks, too, for those tasty muffins you contributed to the “raffle” at the Annual Meeting/Bent Prop Award Dinner. Mark is an example of a committed member, and we appreciate him.

Watch the calendar in the River Skipper for dates on upcoming events—it is time to get excited about being a member of SPSPS and “do something”!!

submitted by Lt/C Jeff Davis, AP

Bent Prop Recap

The Annual Meeting/Bent Prop award dinner was held again this year and there was no shortage of miss-haps and stories to be told. The evening started with a quick business meeting and the 2007 budget was approved. Then it was on to the fine dining of pasta, dinner rolls and desert all freshly prepared by Hal and Donna Fotsch and Art Mollica.

The presentations started quickly with Nancy Anderson’s boating experience, Mike Hafner’s piloting abilities and Ken Kidd’s range cover cooking extravaganza. Next came an exciting speech performed perfectly by Don Anderson about Mark Fotsch’s engine maintenance issues. None other than Mark’s brother Eric Fotsch who was the proud recipient of the bent prop award in 2004 authored the story. After many laughs and drinks the award was handed out. At the very end of the night lots of raffle items were won. Thank you to Hal and Donna for hosting such a fun evening and I look forward to hearing your stories next year.

Commander Mark Fotsch, AP

Editors note: Commander Mark was too shy to admit he won the BENT PROP award this year.

Education is the key that opens opportunity's door.

Don't let the title scare you.

Unlike other USPS courses, the

Instructor Development course is not designed to enhance boating skills nor are the skills learned limited to the USPS classroom environment.

This course, designed to demonstrate interactive teaching methods focused on adult learning, can also be used in your personal and professional endeavors, anytime you are dealing with adults.

Topics covered in this six-session course include:

Adult Learning Theory
Verbal vs. Non-verbal Communications
Teaching Students with Disabilities
Questioning Techniques
How to Create PowerPoint Presentations
How to Delivery Your Presentation

You will learn how to prepare lesson plans and give presentations utilizing a

variety of teaching aids



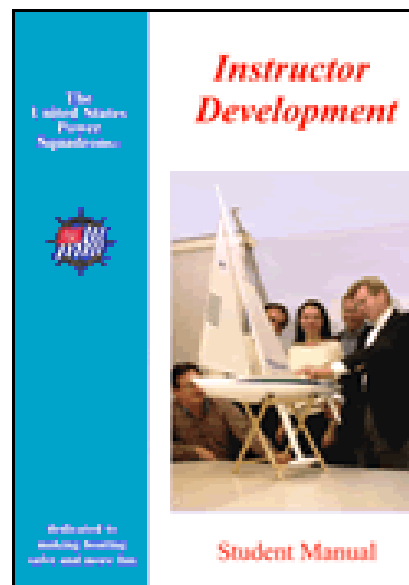
and presentation skills.

Successful completion of the course will earn you the National Association of States Boating Law Administrators recognition of "Certified Instructor."

Best part of this course is the cost—zero, nothing, nada, zilch. Realizing its importance, the cost of the student manual is covered by the National Education Fund.

The class will be held on Thursdays beginning April 19th at 1900 (7:00PM), in our classrooms at Apostolic Bible Institute (Hadley & Old Hudson Road—Oakdale).

The instructor will be P/D/C Jerry Brings.



Class Registration Form

☐ Sail Thursday, 15 Mar @ ABI

☐ Weather (canceled) Tuesday, 27 Mar @ ABI

☐ Instructor Development Thursday, 19 Apr @ ABI

Contact Lt/C Bob McElrath, 392 Bear Ave South, Vadnais Hts, MN 55127
Save the postage and email: robmcelrath@aol.com or phone: (651) 653-1913
Squadron Information Line: (952) 472-9300

Members awarded Advanced Grades for past experience

New members, **Pete Hansen** and **Alan Hansen** have been awarded completion certificates for the Seaman-ship, Piloting and Advanced Piloting course based on their prior boating experiences.

Pete and Alan both hold USCG 100-ton Captain licenses. Upon submission of copies of their licenses to National, it was determined they possessed the equivalent knowledge acquired by these courses and they were awarded the grade of Advanced Pilot.



Squadron members, (l-r) Pete Hansen, Mike Tipler, Sue Tipler, Jeff Davis, Andrea Davis, Greg Holmen, (front) Art Mollica, Bob Schmit and Bob Gillen met at The Pickle Factory in Pepin, WI on Sunday, 7 Jan, for a day of sight taking as part of their Junior Navigation class. Unfortunately, the sun did not cooperate and they were forced to spend the day in the warm bar area.



WANTED

One member to chair our Vessel Safety Examiner Program—will provide any training and assistance.

One member to chair our PR (Public Relations) program—can you help if we put together a committee?

One member to assist with chairing the Coop Charting program—

There is something for each member to do for our squadron—Contact me and we will get you matched up to that perfect “job” ADVENTURE !

Contact Jeff Davis, 651-457-0588, captjd75@aol.com

ST. PAUL MEMBERS!!

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- Discount 10% off Material Retail Price... Labor is Excluded
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Co-Op Charting

Our District, D-10, leads the nation in Co-Op charting. St. Paul Squadron ranks 7th in the nation behind, Door County-1st, and Green Bay 2nd, congratulations to them. Our 3rd place standing is followed by Madison 10th Minnetonka 13th Milwaukee 20th Hiawatha Valley 26th Central Wisconsin 28th Duluth 33rd and Oshkosh 36th.

Individual St. Paul members contributing to our success are:

Dave Selden - 6 credits

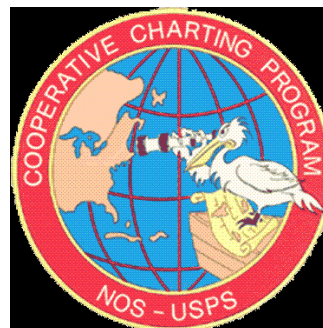
Sue Tipler - 14 credits

Mike Tipler - 14 credits

Don Hansen - 23 credits

Andrea Davis -149 credits, Honor Roll status, ranks 27th in the Nation.

Jeff Davis - 360 credits, Honor Roll status, ranks 10th in the Nation.

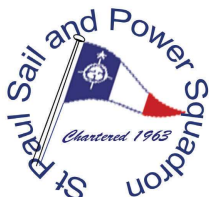


ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card Size \$120/yr 1/4 Page \$180/yr 1/2 Page \$220/yr

Members advertise boating items no charge. Leave inquiries on Squadron Information Line 952-472-9300

St. Paul Sail & Power Squadron Information Hotline 952-472-



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