From the Commander’s Desk

“Weeds are like the stars: we never reach them, but like the mariners of the sea, we chart our course by them.”
—Carl Schurz

Cdr Nancy Gagich, S

We have had just enough great weather lately to dare to look forward to summer and boating. Time to make a list and get the calendar out. → New oven (remember size constraint), get ice maker fixed, crockpot recipes, lose 50 pounds, plan boating destinations and overnights, check on local festival dates and coordinate with SPSPS and SCYC events, fill in vacation, find new walking/hiking trails. OK, it’s a start. Got it out of my head and down on paper! Now, put paper in a safe place.

We have an exciting year planned and hope that you will agree. Along with the usual boating events, raft-ups, and get-togethers, we are starting the year with a Hawaiian party at the Seneca’s. March 11th starting at 5:00 P.M. See flyer enclosed for details. Let Jim and Peggy know if you can make it.

24-26 March 2017—circle this date on your calendar! Write “D10 Spring Conference in Wausau, Wisconsin”, next to it. This is a great opportunity to meet our incoming D10 Bridge Officers and build Civic, Educational, and Fraternal relationships with other District 10 Members of USPS. We are not an island. We need each other and learn from and with one another. Conferences are time away from our daily routines to focus on boating, education and how we can share safe boating with our communities. Join us. We look forward to seeing you there. A Registration form is attached. It needs to be completed and returned to Cdr. Maurice Rice from the Central Wisconsin Sail & Power Squadron by 17 March 2017. Hotel registration is 1 March 2017. Treat yourself to this weekend. See you soon!

Commander Gagich
2017 Calendar of Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Fling into Spring</td>
<td>Jim and Peggy Senesac’s (see attached flyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RSVP to Peggy by March 1 at 612-669-2934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24-26</td>
<td>D10 Spring Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to Nancy Gagich and Dave West for their contributions to this issue.

The Executive Committee meets monthly at 1900 (7PM) on the second Monday. Meetings are by telephone conference. All members are welcome, invited, and are encouraged to attend. Please contact Cdr. Nancy Gagich for call in information.

USPS® and United States Power Squadrons® are registered trademarks of the United States Power Squadrons, Inc., Boat Smart® is a trademark of United States Power Squadrons, Inc. for their public boating safety course. Contents and graphics are the property of the USPS and should not be reproduced without permission by groups other than squadrons and districts of the United States Power Squadrons, Inc.

The River Skipper is published bi-monthly for the members of St Paul Sail and Power Squadron Inc., a unit of District 10 United States Power Squadrons. 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. Deadline for submission of articles is two days after the bridge meeting preceding month of publication. River Skipper Staff: Nancy and John Gagich; John Suchomel, Editor; Karen Manor, Photographer.

Submit entries to John Suchomel at: spsps_newsletter@yahoo.com
Good to Know:

Sophia's Law, named for seven-year-old Sophia Baechler, who died from carbon monoxide poisoning while boating on Lake Minnetonka, requires that gasoline-powered motorboats with any enclosed space surrounded by boat structure intended for a person to enter, are required to have three CO warning stickers displayed by May 1, 2017, for lawful operation. The stickers are to be placed:
1. At the helm (steering station);
2. In or at the entrance to any enclosed occupancy space; and,
3. At the aft boarding/stern area.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors must be located to monitor the atmosphere in the main cabin and each sleeping area. CO Detectors manufactured prior to 2012 should be replaced! Sensors within the CO detectors have an average life span of 5 years. Newer models have a printed expiration date or alert system notifying the user when to replace the system. Some new models have a longer life span.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that can be toxic even in very small quantities since its effects are cumulative over time. Whether inside, outside, underway, or anchored, passengers can quickly become victims of CO poisoning. A quick inspection every time you operate your boat can save a life, carbon monoxide poisonings are preventable.

Most boat owners affected by this law will receive the warning stickers and details on the requirements before boating season begins this year.

Minnesota is the first state to require CO detectors in motorboats. Together we can lead our nation in reducing CO poisoning accidents while boating.

February Change of Watch at Bucca di Beppo

Thank you to all the members who attended this year’s Change of Watch at Bucca di Beppo in St. Paul. We had a great turnout in an intimate setting. The family style meal selections were very good and most of us took leftovers home. We all had a lot of fun. This year we were honored to have our own D/C Kristine Harmon inducting the 2017-2018 Bridge. D/C Harmon brought a message from this year’s District 10 Commander nominee William Dohr. Thank you Kris! I want to thank the 2016-2017 Bridge for all your help and support this past year. We wouldn’t have accomplished all we did this past year without you. I also want to thank my hubby, John Gagich for being our Executive Officer and Past Commander last year and again this year. He has made my position as Commander less stressful on more than one occasion and in many situations, has been there to remind me that I can do this! Finally, I want to thank Sue Tipler for being my Flag Lt. Sue was my right hand, had my back and kept me on task and on point at all times. A Big Thank You to Sue for making sure we are sailing this ship on course!
Update Your Contact Information

The start of a Watch Year is an excellent time to update or correct your personal information on the USPS National Website. This is the contact information your squadron uses to keep you informed, to mail your newsletter and for roster information.

Go to www.usps.org;
- Click on ‘Site Index’ at top;
- Click on ‘Information Center’ in the alphabetical listing;
- Scroll down left side column to ‘Manage Your Own Profile’;
- Login with your certificate number and PIN (your PIN code is attached to your membership

Educational Officer

Lt/C Dave West

After a 3 year hiatus, I’m back as your Squadron Educational Officer. I’m looking forward to working with all to improve our boating experiences with both educational and fellowship opportunities. There are a couple of things I need assistance with. Are there any course materials and teaching aids out there? Since we no longer have a central location for our equipment, I need to locate the tools for teaching our classes. If you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of projectors, screens, or any books or teaching aids, would you please email or phone me. dwest@voyager.net or 651 429-3840. Thanks.

1st Class(es)

There are several members ready to start Seamanship. Now would be a good time to take a class before the water turns liquid and we get busy with our boats. Study now and put into practice when the boats are in the water. We would like more students. Contact me for information. Self-study is an option if preferred.

Our first ABC3 public class should be in late March. If there are any youth 12 to 17 years old wanting to qualify for their state boat operator’s certification this is the class. Certification is valid in all 50 states. This class also meets the requirements for boat operation in Canada. Please talk to any friends and neighbors too that might be interested in training.

There are many additional classes and seminars available. I would like to hear from anyone about any Power Squadron training they would be interested in.

VSC’S

While not under my oversight, I consider Vessel Safety Checks an important way to spread the Power Squadron message and a great learning opportunity. The learning goes both ways. I enjoy visiting many different boats and talking about the varied boating styles and experiences. And the people are great, wanting to improve their own boating time. Consider becoming a Vessel Examiner or better yet take Instructor Development and get certified to teach others to become better boaters.

Glad to be back & involved.

Dave
FLING INTO SPRING

Please join us at Jim and Peggy Senesac’s
5500 East Bald Eagle Blvd, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
for a Spring Kick-off Party

Saturday, March 11, 2017
5:00 P.M.

Hawaiian Shirt or Island Attire Suggested

Coconut Chicken and Bahama Mamma’s will be provided

Please bring a Dish to Pass

Please let me know if you are going to attend and number of guests:
Peggy Senesac
612-669-2934
No Later Than March 1, 2017
ADVERTISING RATES
Business Card Size  $120/yr  1/4 Page  $180/yr  1/2 Page  $220/yr
Members advertise boating items no charge.

ST PAUL MEMBERS
10% Discount on all Carpet-Vinyl-Hardwood-Ceramic-Window Blinds
For SPSPS Members!!!!

All Major Brands of Flooring
Lifetime Installation Warranty
Expert Craftsmanship
Same as Cash Financing Available on approved Credit
Discount 10% off Material Retail Price... Labor is Excluded
Discount does not apply to already discounted Sale prices

Rated #1 Service by ConsumerCheckbook.org

SCHNEIDER CARPET ONE®
1112 West 7th Street - St. Paul MN 55102
Conveniently Located Just Off 35 E and West 7th Street

651-224-2344

stpaulsquadron.org

2334 Boulder Road
Chanhassen, MN 55317