My grandfather, Harold, was a man of very few words. Very few. Maybe he used most of them up on U-Boat patrol in the North Atlantic as a Lieutenant on HMCS Fennel. But there was one piece of advice he gave me, when I was a relatively young man. He told me that there are two things in life that you must never be late for: a golf tee time and when the boat is scheduled to leave the dock. I am made to think of this advice because if it wasn’t for the patience of the NHSPS team that puts our newsletter together, I know I would have been left on the dock watching this ship sail away without me. Thank you for your patience.

It has been a while since we published a Bulletin, as described elsewhere, but with summer well underway, it was high time we did. As the weirdness that is the transformative year of 2020 continues, one of the things that has stayed consistent is that boating is a pastime and way of life that will persevere in us all, regardless of what is happening all around us. Certainly many (many!) things have changed about how, when and with whom we share our boating adventures. But we want to get out on the water, and Boaters adapt!

While sitting and watching Granite Bay the last few months, it is apparent to me that there are more people on the water, in every kind of craft you can think of, than I have ever seen while living on the shoreline. Even boat sales are up!? It has been more than a decade since the recreational boating industry in Connecticut has expanded, and that expansion has been in every sector from power and sailboats to the myriad self-propelled craft dotting waters throughout the state.

From this welcome state of affairs two thoughts arise. Firstly, lots of potential new NHSPS members are out there! Come on, let’s go and tell all of them the story of the oldest Squadron in America’s Boating Club. Tell them all about the comradery, the educational opportunities, and the dedicated advocacy we all bring to boating safety. My message has always strongly focused on the need for every member of NHSPS to find ways to tell our story. Some of our recent initiatives may have stalled as we have adjusted to whatever this new normal will settle out to be, but there will be increased focus and attention on all that relates to increasing membership and keeping our members actively engaged as summer fades into autumn and beyond.

Secondly, amongst the new flotsam of boaters, including those who have returned to the pastime or are introducing a younger generation to recreation boating, there are lots of people who can be well served by the best and broadest boating education to be found anywhere! (Believe me, I have witnessed some truly ‘oh my!’ moments this year!) Some great information on the extensive online content available through America’s Boating Club has been shared in this issue and I strongly urge you not continued next page
only explore all of this knowledge yourselves, but also to share it as broadly as you can.

Relatedly, as we move closer to our traditional season of teaching Classes and Seminars, I want to thank everyone involved with the Advanced Piloting / Coastal Navigation class completed earlier this year. The class participants and instructors (Thank you Peters!) were fully engaged from the beginning. However, in order to complete the course, our instructors had to embrace teaching in a virtual environment, putting a new tool into our educational toolkit that we fully expect to keep using for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, the participants had to figure out the best way to collaborate as we worked through the challenging and rewarding material, helping each other to learn as much as possible, sharing our passion for boating all while social distancing and other challenges made sharing that passion in anything but a virtual way mostly impossible. As I said, Boaters adapt!

I just realized there is another reason why I thought of my grandfather Harold while working on this message. He and his father and family used to travel the length and breadth of Georgian Bay (in Ontario) in a locally built boat designed by the renowned William H. Hand, Jr.

One entry from my great grandfather’s log of the MV Isabel described the whole family being forced to take up a shaky anchoring ground, on a lee shore, because of a blustery NW wind blowing making the seas too unsafe to proceed. His log that night read “the skipper spent a restless night.” All was well in the morning. I feel like we have all been a bit ‘on a lee shore’ the last several months, with a worldwide pandemic, and all that has brought with it, all around us. Add in two of the biggest storms I have seen on this shoreline just for good measure and how could we not. But I am sure that the “restless night” we have all been experiencing will pass. We will adapt and persevere.


NHSPS Awards

Our Squadron has been recognized by USPS for excellence in the following areas:
- Distinctive Communicator Award for Bulletin
- Distinctive Communicator Award for Website

In addition, New Haven received the following District 1 Education Award:
- Everett M. Labelle Achievement Award

25 Year Membership Pin Awarded

Cdr. Robert Frost, AP, received a letter from VC Harry Hebb, SN, USPS National Secretary congratulating him on NHSPS’s newest 25-year member: P/C Michael Drozd, AP. Mike will receive his 25-year pin at the next Membership Meeting. VC Harry Hebb, SN, noted in his letter “The receipt of 25-year pin by any member is deserving of our sincerest appreciation and thanks.” Congratulations to P/C Mike Drozd, AP, on achieving this milestone in his USPS career.

NHSPS Leadership Needs New Blood!

The group guiding the Squadron is getting up there in years. Some are ready to move on to more leisurely activities such as jumping off piers. There are many Committee and a few Bridge positions open. Good instructors are always in demand. If you are interested in helping our 106-year-old organization move forward during our second century, please contact Cdr. Robert Frost, AP at rbfrost@gmail.com or (203) 506-3683
Greetings NHSPS Members:

We have not had a Bulletin in a while simply because we have not had much to say. Needless to say, the Covid-19 virus has impacted the Squadron in the same way it has impacted all our lives. With restaurant use restricted and social distancing requirements our monthly membership meetings were simply stopped until it is safe again to gather.

Same is true for our classes. Closing of the facilities used for our classes, group restrictions and social distancing requirements also put an abrupt end to our classroom education efforts.

Vessel Safety Checks have also been stopped until they are safe for both the vessel examiner and boat owner to resume.

However, the Bridge is still active putting together plans to resume Squadron activities when it is safe to do so.

Classes with instructors and students in attendance will resume when it is safe and facilities become available.

Planned autumn courses include Seamanship and Piloting. The Seamanship Course will start in late September. Piloting will follow a couple weeks after Seamanship is complete.

NHSPS loses a long-time member

**P/D/C Charles Newfield, JN**

I’m sorry to report that Charles Newfield, a Governing Board Member Emeritus of New Haven Sail and Power Squadron, passed away on June 7. He was a Life Member and had 50 Merit Marks and was a member of USPS for 58 years. His widow, Edith, is a member of our Squadron. Charles and Edith were married for 63 years. Charles was an avid boater and fisherman. In addition to being a member of NHSPS, Charles was a Past Commander of Peekskill Power Squadron, Peekskill, NY and Past District Commander of District 2. He was also a member of various other squadrons. He joined USPS at Peekskill Power Squadron in 1964 and achieved a grade of Junior Navigator.
Future Thoughts

Thimbles Tour in a Kayak

Cdr. Robert Frost, AP, is keeping in touch with Eileen Martin, Branford River Paddlesports, about a guided kayak tour of the Thimble Islands. Eileen was our speaker at the November 2019 Membership Meeting. A possible tour of the Thimbles came up during this meeting. It was hoped this tour could be done in the spring, but the Covid-19 virus ended those plans. Perhaps Robert and Eileen will be able to schedule a tour for the fall or next spring.

Notice from USPS

Email address needed to receive The Ensign

To reduce our organization’s expenses, America’s Boating Club will no longer print and mail The Ensign magazine to members. Starting with the Fall 2020 issue, members will receive an email containing a link to the digital edition of The Ensign on our website. Squadron commanders and secretaries, please urge your members to update their contact information, including their email addresses. We currently have over 2,800 members without email addresses on file. These members will not be able to receive The Ensign unless they have an email address on file. Thank you!

– Tina Tibbits, The Ensign assistant editor

Share Your Photo

For the Fall Bulletin it would be great to put together a montage of summer boating photos. Please send photos of your summer boating adventures to P/C Mike Drozd, AP, at michaeldrozd@att.net

For starters, D/Lt/C Peter Jenkin, SN, and P/C Nancy Miller, SN, provided a photo of their Nordic Tug in Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA, with the USS Massachusetts in the background.

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