



NEW HAVEN SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

BULLETIN

THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS SQUADRON IN USPS - CHARTERED 23 APRIL 1914

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM

www.nhspss.org

• MAY 2021 •

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

PHOTO: PIC MICHAEL DROZD, AP



Message from Cdr Robert B. Frost, AP



It feels like a while since I wrote my last Commander's message. But, with Earth Day just behind us, and the Pink Full Moon right around the corner, I feel stirred to action. Like everything around us.

I don't remember exactly when I first knew Spring was springing, but it was likely while on the porch, looking south onto Long Island Sound. Over the course of a few weeks, fauna and flora 'came back' and made themselves known. Early perennial flowers, most of which I have no idea the name, and flowering trees are always an early indicator. You see fish in small bait balls for the first time in a few months. You also start to notice the birds along the shoreline proliferating. Osprey's return to their fishing grounds, a few days later Terns are chattering and swarming around Green Island and further afield again. Wading fishing birds like the Great Blue Heron and Great Egret reappear, and Oystercatchers arrive with their loud peep-ing calls and low altitude follow-the-leader swoops across Granite Bay. Then one day you hear songbirds in full voice and see a Tree Swallow gracefully arcing through the sky. And if you are lucky, maybe a Bald Eagle appears too. Oh wait, are those Spring Peepers? Right in front of your eyes and ears, Spring returns with its annual promise of... Boating!

There have been plenty of Spring activities going on in the last several weeks in the Squadron as well. Peter DePascale's Piloting/Coastal Navigation class all scored 87% or better in their exams, a real testimony to the class's hard work and Peter's excellent instruction. Art Andrea taught the Boat Handling course recently as well to an equally engaged and prepared group of students. Our Member's meeting presentation on restoring the Kinneytown Dam Fish Passage reverberated as a reminder that every day should be Earth Day. And I'm certain, that the annual ritual of Spring

Commissioning is going at full pace in backyards and Yacht Clubs and Marinas all over Long Island Sound and beyond. Spring has sprung in the boating world too. I would like to encourage all of our Members to consider sending in their best/worst 'getting the boat ready' stories for a future Bulletin or Member's Meeting presentation.

As expected, there is lots of good reading ahead in this issue. Learn about using currents for passage out of and back into Long Island Sound including strategies for passing through the "infamous" Plum Gut and Hell Gate. There is even a new Word Puzzle to try your hand at.

We have a few activities planned for the coming months, one of which you will see in this issue that represents another way we are all connected to the Earth and all its inhabitants. However, we can always use, and greatly appreciate, any input from our membership about potential presentations, or field trips to areas of interest or any other suggestions that can bring us together, virtually or not.



Sept 28, 2012 - First time through the Gut, on my first day aboard Schooner *Brilliant*. P.S. Please don't tell Captain Alley I shared this photo :) - Cdr. Robert Frost

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new members to the New Haven Sail & Power Squadron! We encourage your participation and are looking forward to meeting you, hearing all about your connection to what bonds us all - Boating! Stay safe. Stay boating. Stay in touch. Fair Winds.



Earthrise" image taken by Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders on Christmas Eve 1968

May 2021 Calendar

13 May 1830 (second Thursday)

NHSPS Bridge Meeting
Virtual Meeting on Zoom
Membership Invited

6 June 1400 (first Sunday)

Membership Field Trip
Tour of A Place Called Hope:
A Rehabilitation and
Education Center
for Birds of Prey.

June, Date to be Determined

NHSPS Spring Picnic
Phoebe Schmidt's home
In Westbrook
Details in June *Bulletin* and
e-mail to Squadron Members.

25/26/27 June

District 1 Summer Event
Essex Island Rendezvous
Details in future *Sounds of 1*
and *Bulletin*



Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 1400

Field Trip: Private Tour of a Raptor Rehab Center

Join other Squadron members on a field trip and private tour (first come, first served) to A Place Called Hope (www.aplacecalledhoperaptors.com), 154 Pond Meadow Rd., Killingworth, on Sun., 6 June (rain date Sun., 13 June) at 1400.

It is an educational and rehabilitation center for birds of prey run by licensed wildlife rehabilitators. The tour is limited to 18 people split into three groups maximum. We will have three tour guides. The birds will be viewed one aviary at a time as each group sticks together in front of each bird aviary with their guide. It is not fair to the birds who are healing or who live there to have larger groups.

The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes to one hour and is all outside, so it is weather dependent. In case it rains or has rained and is muddy, it would be rescheduled to Sun., 13 June, at a later start time. Be aware that there are no rest-room facilities.

The Squadron will be covering the cost of \$5 per person, (total \$90). We will carpool from the commuter lot at the Killingworth traffic circle (Rt. 80 & 81) since there is parking at the facility for a maximum of eight cars. Since the tour will begin at around 1400 (2 p.m.), we will want to meet by 1330 at the lot.

To sign up and register for the tour, please contact our Administrative Officer Phoebe Schmidt at phoebes Schmidt@gmail.com or 719-244-5610. Initial sign-ups will be for current NHSPS members, first come, first served. Deadline to sign up is Fri., 28 May.

We will have a Zoom meeting on Thurs., 3 June to discuss final logistics relative to carpooling and attendance. We may gather someplace after the tour to socialize.

Masks and social distancing protocols will be followed.

NHSPS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

D/C Arthur Andrea, AP - NHSPS Education Officer

Congratulations to the students who took the Marine Navigation (Piloting) Class. All passed the final exam with very high scores:

John Noonan	Rebecca Gladych
Christopher Roche	Robert W. Roche
Jamie Lugo	Ronald Kaiser
James DiLieto	

Congratulations to all and great job done.

It is also important to acknowledge the fine teaching job done by P/C Peter DePascale, AP, and Cdr. Robert Frost, AP. Virtual Instruction of Marine Navigation is challenging. The instructors did a fine job in conveying the fundamentals of this difficult course to the students over Zoom.

Welcome New Member

The NHSPS is pleased to announce the following new member:

Douglas Roberts of North Haven is currently enrolled in our Boat Handling (formerly Seamanship) course. He owns a 22-foot sailboat and is an architect.

HARNESSING CURRENTS: Leaving and Entering Long Island Sound

P/C Mike Drozd, AP

I had to smile when reading the article in April's *Bulletin* on Coecl's Harbor by D/Lt/C Peter Jenkin, SN. Peter mentions, "To get to Coecl's Harbor, head east on Long Island Sound to reach **Plum Gut**. Pass through the Gut and head 220 magnetic to the green flasher at the entrance channel."

"Pass through the Gut" is a bit of an understatement. Prior to my first passage through the Gut my sons, 11 and 12 years old at the time, filled my wife's head with horror stories about 8-foot standing waves, nasty chop, tiderips and boats that really got slapped around. My wife was actually frightened about making this passage. To make matters worse I had to admit that if you timed your course poorly, the stuff the boys were telling her were true.

However, with the skills learned from USPS Navigation Courses we used a fair current to approach the Gut and entered at slack tide. As we passed buoy GR "MS" I told my wife we were through the Gut. During the entire passage the waters were as still as a mill pond. She promptly chastised the boys for their version of going through the Gut.

Leaving or entering Long Island Sound can be a fast, easy trip or a seasickness inducing ride. Try to leave the Sound at the wrong time in a sailboat or slow trawler and you could be staring at Race Rock for hours.

Eldridge has a series of Tidal Current Charts for Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound. Currents in the Race range from slack to 5.7 knots. With the average maximum velocity at Flood of 3.3 knots and at Ebb 4.2 knots. The velocities in the Gut range from slack to 3.2 knots, but can also exceed 5 knots with the right conditions.

So, when making a trip to Block Island or into Gardiner Bay using fair currents can save a lot of time in a sailboat and fuel in a powerboat. The currents between Watch Hill and Block Island are fairly light. So, when visiting or returning from Block Island it would be advantageous to disregard these lighter currents to take advantage of the stronger ebb and flood in the Race and Long Island Sound.

When traveling beyond Block Island Eldridge has an excellent segment on

holding a fair current between eastern Long Island and Nantucket. Basically, in Long Island Sound the Ebb current flows to the east. In Buzzards Bay, Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, the Ebb Current flows to the west. Off Newport the opposed Ebb currents merge and flow south. The reverse is also true. Flood currents flow west through Long Island Sound and east through Buzzards Bay, Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds. When sailing in the area use the Ebb Current going toward Newport and the Flood Current when leaving the area.

When sailing out of the Sound to points north such as Plymouth, Boston or Maine the **Cape Cod Canal** provides a

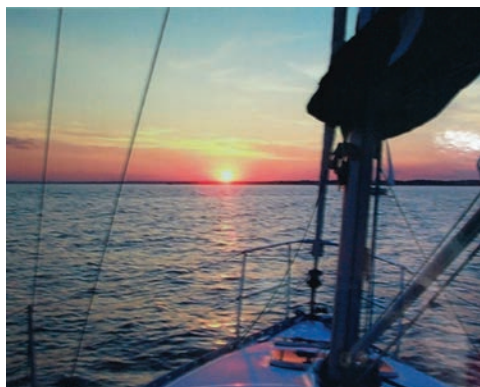


PHOTO: P/C MICHAEL DROZD, AP

much safer and shorter route than sailing around the Cape. This Canal is another location where knowledge of currents is vital. In the Eldridge Current Tables velocities up to 6.6 knots are listed. While on a trip to Plymouth our GPS indicated a speed over ground of 12 knots while in the Canal. Quite a rush in a 28-foot sailboat. Obviously, you need to plan when to pass through. If we tried to buck the current, we would have been sailing backwards!

If you are planning to transit Cape Cod Canal do some reading first. The Canal has traffic lights at both ends. Here running a red light will bring you face-to-face with a large cruise ship or military vessel. There is also a 2-½ hour time limit to transit the Canal so waiting for a fair current is important. There are a number of other regulations required for safe passage. Knowing and understanding the rules of the Canal will result in a memorable and enjoyable trip.

There can also be a down side to the Canal's quick currents. When returning from Plymouth we went through the canal using the current to speed us along. Upon entering Buzzards Bay, we were greeted with an opposing 20 knot wind. This created a series of six-foot ditches in the water. One minute we had the bow buried to the mast, in the next our keel was partly out of the water. We also saw this on a sailboat behind us. There was a bit of rock and roll until we entered a protective cove with a marina where we tied up for the night.

Exiting Long Island Sound to the west also has some interesting points. Visiting New York City by boat is a wonderful experience. Traveling from Long Island Sound to New York Harbor via the East River will take you under eight bridges starting with the Throgs Neck Bridge and finishing with the Brooklyn Bridge. In between there is also an area called **Hell Gate**, where the East River makes a sharp bend and the Harlem River joins from the northwest. At this point the current can be up to 5.5 knots with lots of chop and boiling rips. I have also heard stories about whirlpools. Needless to say, when going through Hell Gate put down your phone and pay attention!

Navigating Hell Gate is a matter of good timing. Plan your passage here with care. Slack water in Hell Gate is only about four minutes so make sure your passage is with a fair tide.

Like Cape Cod Canal the current in the East River is pretty quick. On our trip to New York, we were doing over 10 knots when traveling between Roosevelt Island and Manhattan. Once you go under the Brooklyn Bridge and take the turn around The Battery you get a wonderful view of the Statue of Liberty.

Commercial traffic in the New York area can be daunting. During our trip to New York, we had a seaplane land near us on the East River. At the Battery the Staten Island Ferry tooted its horn at us to get out of the way. On the Hudson River we watched the *Queen Elizabeth II* and a large cruise ship pass by.

This article supplements the Pleasant Anchorages series of stories written by D/Lt/C Peter Jenkin, SN. Peter's stories focus on places to visit, where to anchor or tie-up and the amenities to be found in the area. This story provides general advice on how to get to some of those anchorages outside of Long Island Sound that will be the subject of future Pleasant Anchorages stories.

NHSPS Word Search: SAILBOATS

The following terms are items associated with Auxiliary Sailboats.

An auxiliary sailboat is basically designed as a sailing craft but is powered with an internal-combustion engine for use in adverse weather conditions and for maneuvering in confined spaces.

The words can be found by reading forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. They are always in a straight line.

When you locate a word in the puzzle run a line through it or draw a loop around it. Do not forget to run a line through the word on the list.

D	T	S	A	L	L	A	B	L	R	E	K	C	O	L	B	B
R	R	O	H	C	N	A	I	N	E	T	T	A	B	I	H	A
A	R	E	E	H	S	A	S	T	U	K	W	N	N	E	R	C
O	D	A	E	H	S	S	C	A	H	E	G	N	L	L	E	K
B	J	I	B	N	C	H	U	D	L	Y	A	M	L	T	L	S
E	H	O	I	K	O	R	P	C	I	C	T	H	S	K	L	T
E	F	A	C	C	C	O	P	J	L	I	F	A	M	G	I	A
R	M	G	H	O	K	U	E	E	R	O	M	U	Y	T	T	Y
F	R	E	A	C	P	D	R	P	R	R	E	G	L	I	B	E
X	E	L	I	A	I	S	S	E	M	E	E	R	K	H	N	Y
M	D	C	N	E	T	W	D	B	O	L	G	K	U	G	E	T
R	A	O	P	S	O	E	H	U	S	L	Y	L	I	L	O	I
A	E	A	L	B	C	L	C	R	N	E	L	N	L	O	I	V
D	R	T	A	K	S	E	N	G	A	P	E	A	B	O	W	A
R	P	V	T	U	R	E	I	E	R	O	G	M	O	O	B	D
A	S	X	E	B	P	K	W	E	T	R	R	E	D	N	E	F
Y	S	T	A	N	C	H	I	O	N	P	R	U	D	D	E	R

- ANCHOR
- BACKSTAY
- BALLAST
- BATTEN
- BILGE
- BINNACLE
- BOOM
- BOW
- BOWSPRIT
- BURGEE
- CHAINPLATE
- CLEW
- COCKPIT
- DAVIT
- ENGINE
- FENDER
- FOREDECK
- FREEBOARD
- GALLEY
- GELCOAT
- HEAD
- HELM
- HULL
- JIB
- KEEL
- LOCKER
- MAINSAIL
- MAST
- PROPELLER
- RUDDER
- SCUPPER
- SEACOCK
- SHEER
- SHROUDS
- SPREADER
- STANCHION
- TILLER
- TRANSOM
- WINCH
- YARDARM

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The New Haven Sail and Power Squadron is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®, a national boating organization whose main objective is to improve boating skills and knowledge by offering superior boating education. As a community service NHSPS holds America's Boating Course at least twice a year. Among many programs for its members, it offers comprehensive courses in seamanship, piloting, celestial navigation, weather forecasting, marine electronics, sail, cruising and cruise planning in addition to seminars. The *Bulletin* is the New Haven Sail and Power Squadron's official publication. It is published quarterly and distributed to its members and District 1 squadron commanders. Material in this publication may be reprinted in whole or in part by any other squadron of United States Power Squadrons® with proper credit to the *Bulletin* and New Haven Sail and Power Squadron. Any questions concerning the *Bulletin* may be made to the Editor.

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