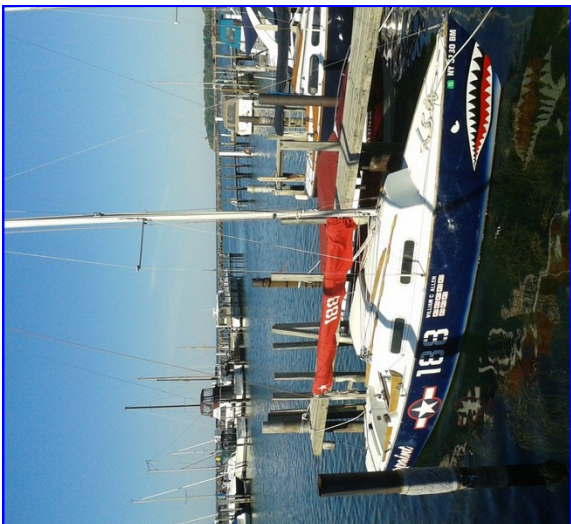


The Southwind

P/Stf/C Donald Stark, JN, Co-Editor
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Another Shark—This time we spotted a Shark Sailboat in Dunkirk, NY. There is an active fleet of these Shark racing sailboats at the Dunkirk Yacht Club. Photo by Don Stark

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The Southwind

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A Division of the United States Power Squadrons®



Sunset at Presque Isle

Photo by P/C Tom Merritt, JN

Coming Events

4-9 September USPS Governing Board Meeting
Detroit Marriott—Renaissance Center

12 September SHPS Picnic Meeting - Beach Club Marina
5 PM dinner - see page three

10 October SHPS Monthly Meeting
Place to be determined

2-4 November USPS D7 Fall Conference
Double Tree by Hilton Greentree Pittsburgh
Hosted by: Pittsburgh Power Squadron



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Audrey Rice
Art & Emily Schock
Don & Marjie Stark

If you would like to contribute to the publication of this newsletter, please make a contribution in any amount to South Hills Power Squadron, c/o Lt/C Warren Bell, AP, Treasurer. We will list your names in *The Southwind*.

Also, if you have photos or items of interest that you would like to share with your fellow members, please forward them to the editor.

The deadline for the next issue will be **23 October 2012**.

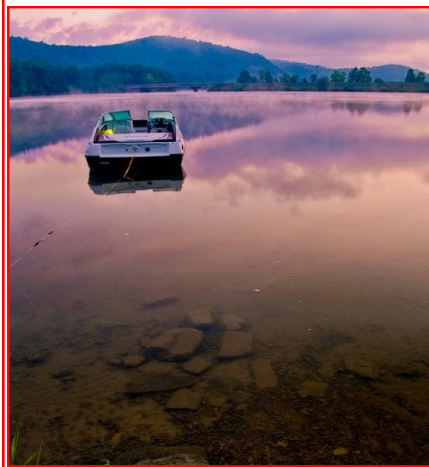
“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” Henry Ford

Record Number of Drowning Deaths Raises Safety Concerns

There have been a total of four drowning deaths at Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County this summer. Three of the deaths occurred on the same day in two separate incidents. In all cases the deaths were a result of swimming. None of the four were wearing life jackets.

In the first case on 29 July two fishermen were swimming, probably to cool off. They were in the vicinity of the Aitch boat launch. Both struggled and went under. Dead were Jerry Hugo, 57, and Larry Newman, 71. It wasn't clear if one of the men was attempting to save the other.

In the second incident on the same day Igor Khodavskly, 71 was attempting to swim to a nearby island when he ran into trouble, attempted to turn back and went under. CPR attempts were unsuccessful. P/C Kenneth Campbell's son-in-law Brian Cook was among the teams doing recovery work,



On Saturday 18 August, 16 year old Clay Bishop drowned after attempting to dive from a 27 foot cliff into the lake. He went into the water feet first and didn't surface. Over 100 rescue workers searched for his body which wasn't recovered until the following Tuesday. The death was ruled an accident.

These deaths underscore the need for caution. Even calm water can be deadly. There is no second chance when it comes to water safety.

South Hills Power Squadron is quite proud of Brian's volunteer work with the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 rescue squadron. We just wish that these cases would have resulted in rescues instead of recovery operations. Wearing life jackets could have made all the difference.

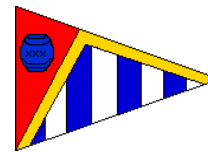
Second Vessel Safety Check Day for SHPS Beach Club Marina. 14 July

By Cdr Dan Marino, P

There was some rain early in the day, which dampened turnout by boaters, but we managed to get in some VSC checks. Vessel Examiners P/C Dorothy Meloy, AP, Cdr Dan Marino, P, Morry Miller, P, and P/C Ken Campbell, JN participated. Afterwards we were pleased to be able to take a ride on Lew's boat. All in all it was a good effort and a nice day.



South Hills Power Squadron Picnic Meeting Beach Club Marina 12 September 2012 Time: 1700 (5:00 PM)



Come join in some fun on the banks of the beautiful Monongahela River with your SHPS Friends. The Squadron will provide the entrée. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Directions: Take Route 88 through Finleyville and continue on 88 for another 5 miles until you come to the "T" intersection with Rt.837. Turn right and follow Rt.88/Rt.837S/Main St. for .8mi. Turn left on Robinson St. (Rupp & Fiore Insurance on left) and drive .2mi. Cross the Railroad tracks & turn right to Marina on left. If you have a GPS, the best address is 100 Marina Drive, New Eagle, PA.

USPS District 7 Fall Conference Double Tree by Hilton - Greentree 2-4 November 2012 Hosted by: Pittsburgh Power Squadron Theme: Naval Battles

Our squadron's decorating theme is The Battle of Hampton Roads — The Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac.

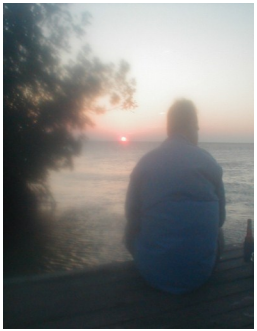
SHPS shares a hospitality room with Cleveland Power Squadron.

It is going to be a great time and an interesting meeting. Contact Don Stark for more information. We need your help with decorations and food for the hospitality room. Best of all, the location is very nearby in Greentree.



Commander Notes

by Cdr Dan Marino, P



I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. At least regarding boating, I hope yours has been a little more eventful than mine. It's been high and dry for me this summer. Early in the season I made an offer that was accepted on another boat. Due to the seller going on vacation, it was a couple weeks before I could take the test ride he offered me on final purchase. In the mean time, I thought I was fortunate to sell the boat my brother and I share to the first person who looked at it. Unfortunately, the day I went to buy the new boat, the test run revealed a few latent issues, and I had to decline. I've been a little busier than usual with work and taking care of some personal projects this summer, and, as of yet, haven't been able to find another one that I want. I use the boat more than my brother. Even though he hasn't been thrilled, he's been ok with the wait. We have a mutual friend who now calls each of us Otis, as in Otis Redding—I expect you get the gist. Several years ago, I had to spend the night on a bench at Sea-Tac Airport because of a flight delay. I found out then what it was like to be *Sleepless in Seattle*. Now I know what it's like to be *Boatless in the 'Burgh*... or west of the 'Burgh anyway.

Foolish puns aside, I, like all of us, do enjoy the summer though. There's just something about being able to go out and do things, most of the time, without giving a thought to the weather and to be able to do them in daylight well into the evening. Now, as the days start getting shorter and the sun begins to set on summer, many will try to squeeze out those last few trips before the boats are prepared to be hauled out. As the season starts giving way to fall, we start turning our attention to other activities. It's about time to hear the bosun's whistle give the call for **All Hands on Deck** for the squadron. I, as I hope you do, look forward to some of those activities that will be spent with squadron members. Our meeting this month will be a picnic meeting again at the Beach Club Marina. We also need everyone to give some thought to where we'd like to hold our meetings the following months. I'm hopeful that we can set an agenda for events, classes, etc. early in the year so we can work toward them throughout the year. Also, as most of you know, the D7 Fall Conference will be in Pittsburgh this year. We will be sharing a hospitality room with the Cleveland Squadron. Our theme will be the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac. I know Don has mentioned that he has some ideas regarding a short sketch we will be doing about the battle. I hope we can all give him a hand and pitch in here—especially those who are more creative than I. We all know we have some hurdles to face as a squadron. I'm hopeful that we will handle them and enjoy our activities together in just that way—as a squadron. . . the South Hills Power Squadron.



Vessel Safety Check Report - by P/C Kenneth Campbell, JN

The South Hills Power Squadron was at the South Side Launch Ramp on 19 May to conduct Vessel Safety Checks during National Safe Boating Week.

We did 15 VSC's and handed out all kinds of safe boating material to the boaters. We had donuts, cupcakes, coffee, and water for all.

We came away feeling very good about the day.

The people present were our new Commander J. Dan Marino (our newest Vessel Examiner), P/C Thomas Merritt, P/C Dorothy Meloy, and P/C Kenneth Campbell.



Dory J. In the West Basin behind the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Erie, PA.
Photo by Tom Merritt

SHPS Members Enjoy Spring Picnic in South Park



"Arghh. There be sharks in these Lake Erie Waters." This boat was seen in Port Dover, Ontario.
Photo by Don Stark

Executive Officer, Lt/C Lew Doughton, S



There was a recent announcement from USPS that "Cooperative Charting Gets New CCWEB" which is https://www.ccweb.noaa.gov/ccweb_new. You will need your certificate number and password to access this site.

Cooperative Charting 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, Coast Pilot publications, Small Craft Facilities and numerous other navigational resources. Some SHPS members have been involved with this in the past.

SHPS members have been very involved again this year with Vessel Safety Checks. As usual, Ken Campbell took top honors in this program by issuing safety stickers to 152 boaters, and Morry Miller is a close runner-up with 126. With additional checks being recorded by Tom Merritt, Don Stark, Marjorie Stark, Dan Marino, Dorothy Meloy and Bill Macko, the total count to date is 340. Thanks to all for this terrific performance.



Administrative Officer, P/C Chris Orie, AP

Hello fellow Squadron Members. Hope all of you had a wonderful summer on the water. We certainly had enough hot and sunny weather to warrant being out there. As Labor Day comes and goes, it's such a bittersweet time for boaters. The prospect of the season coming to a close is sad. We're all very lucky to have the opportunity to motor or sail, but putting our vessels away knowing that there are so many months ahead without them is a gloomy thought. To help you deal with the off-season blues, come to our first squadron meeting on September 12, 2012 at the Beach Club Marina in New Eagle, PA. The picnic starts around 5:00 P.M. The Squadron will supply the main entrée, so bring your favorite side dish or dessert. You can share your summer adventures with your fellow Squadron Members. It could make the fun of your boating season last a little longer.

I would like to give you a heads up about the Pittsburgh Squadron's conference which will take place the first weekend of November at the Greentree Doubletree Hotel. We are sharing a hospitality room with the Cleveland Squadron. Our decorating theme is the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.

Hope to see you soon. In the meantime, keep your motors running or your sails from luffing.

Secretary Dept, Lt/C Shelia Macko, AP

Writing an article this time of the year brings back memories of going back to school after summer break and writing a composition on what I did during my summer vacation. As a child, I wrote on every fun activity that I could remember. As an adult, I'm writing regarding a lesson learned. This summer we spent more time on our boat and there I learned to relax and realized the importance of quality time spent enjoying friends, family, and nature itself. Normally we spend the summer weekends and only one vacation week on the boat. The rush weekend trips to Erie only gives me Saturday to unwind, and this is not enough time to get my three pugs to settle down so I can. By vacationing on our boat for a straight twelve days in August, we were all in vacation mode by the fifth day. Normally up by 4 am, by the twelfth day, the pugs had to be dragged out of bed at 9 am. There's no better therapy then taking a leisurely walk with the dogs around the bay listening to the background sound of the water splashing against the rocks; the sight of boats bobbing in the rippling water; and watching the geese fly overhead as they test their wings while jostling for leadership for their southern flight before winter. During the early spring I noticed the small yellow ducklings, but hadn't really taken the time prior to vacation to notice their development. It wasn't until I noticed the various flocks of young ducks being led by their mothers, that I realized that summer was coming to an end, and I have been so focused on my everyday tasks that as the saying goes "life was passing me by". Now we use our weekends away from work on the boat as a time to recharge our batteries. Whether it's motoring on the lake or just lounging in the sun, we've learned to enjoy every moment on board as time passes too quickly and can't be retrieved for a re-take.

Summer is a Time for Fun

Don & Marjie Stark recently participated in a Lighted Boat Parade in Ashtabula as a part of the *Wine and Walleye Festival*. They won second place in their sailboat class. The theme of the parade was Tropical Christmas. Their boat, *Heaven's Daughter*, had nearly 800 LED lights powered by inverters. They were joined in the parade by Bob and Jane Brandenstein from Pittsburgh Power Squadron.



How Was Your Summer?



Here is the Merritt Family on vacation in Rehoboth this summer.



This photo of Lew & Vi Doughton's boat "What Next?" taken the day in July when Dan, Dorothy, Ken and Morry performed VSCs at Beach Club Marina. Lew says' "First we used it as a rain shelter but eventually took a pleasant cruise on the Mon. I'm glad we had that opportunity since I sold it three weeks later. Vi and I will miss it, but the new owner seems to be getting a lot of pleasure from it."