

# CHANNEL CHATTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DULUTH POWER SQUADRON  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA - DISTRICT 10

A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS  
SAIL AND POWER BOATING

Officer's Reports ..... 3, 7 & 8

Education Classes

    offered ..... 8, 14

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**1998  
VOL. 98  
NUMBER 2  
APRIL-MAY**



# Bridge Officers 1998-1999

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.....	David Jennings, S .....	728-0420

## Schedule of Upcoming Events

APRIL	2 .....	Executive Board Meeting
	25.....	Fitting Out Party, Officers Club at the Old Air Force Base
MAY	7 .....	Executive Board Meeting
	14-17 .....	Spring Governing Board, Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA
	21 .....	Joint Meeting with Coast Guard Auxiliary, Barker's Island Inn

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## Cover Photo:

Fitting Out...  
the Rite of Spring.

*Photo and article by P/C Dave C. Carlson, N*





# Commander's Report

By the time this article is published we will have had our first General Meeting of the new bridge year. I hope everyone who attended got some useful information. This year plan's to be an exciting one, with the D/10 Summer Rendezvous in Bayfield and hopefully a warm summer.

I would like to thank all of you who attended the Change of Watch at Barker's Island Inn on March 7th. We all had a great time. Thank you to P/C Bob Stokes for your stories and messages, to P/C Dick Bibby for a meaningful invocation, to Lt. Kristi Stokes for your introductions, to P/C Bruce Beste for coordinating the flags and all the bearers, to P/C Mary Brisky for keeping me on track, to all the Past Commanders for their insight and to the new Past Commander Dave Mattson for all your help throughout the years. Most of all I would like to thank my wife Lisa for the wonderful table centerpieces and all her help in making this a wonderful night. Again, thank you to anyone who helped out!

We also awarded the Sacred Calabash award on that night. I'm certain Arne is glad to pass on this precious award to Rick Stanius for his blunder with his new props. One thing to remember - you need not be present to win.

This is probably the busiest time of the year for our squadron, with the Public Boating Course in session, a weather class and marlinspike class in session and the new members of the bridge learning their respective departments. We are also anxious for spring to arrive and to get our boats ready for the summer. You can outfit your boat with lots of new or slightly used items from the Fitting Out Party coming up on April 25th. This year's event is being held at the Officers Club at the old Air Force Base. See the flyer included for all the specifics. We need all the donations we can get. Contact Lt/C Bob Ouellette if you have any questions or would love to help out.

On May 21st we will be hosting our annual joint meeting with the Duluth Power Squadron and the Coast Guard Auxiliary to kick off National Safe Boating Week. The theme for this year is "Wear Your Lifejacket! Boat Smart From the Start". This year's meeting will take place at Barker's Island Inn in Superior. Jim Munger has been working very hard in coordinating this very successful event. We are also inviting the Coast Guard, the D.N.R. officers from both Wisconsin and Minnesota along with the boating law administrators, the Rescue Squads from the surrounding counties and the mayors of Duluth and Superior. We hope to continue expanding our efforts in working with other agencies in promoting safe boating through education. Watch your mail for a flyer with more details.

To go along with safe boating, we will have our annual CME exam inspections again offered this year at the dock in Superior on June 6th. I also plan to have a short General Meeting, a barbecue and a celebration on the completion of

our pavilion. The new doors will be installed and ready for our use in case of inclement weather. We all know what last year was like.

Make sure you get your plans made for Bayfield in July. The

word is that space is getting limited. If you have any questions regarding docking, call P/C Jerry Carlson or Gina Wuorinen. We hope to see everyone come and enjoy this wonderful event. There is a lot of people from other squadrons planning to come. Should be fun.

I remember meeting Bob and Dorothy Holmes a couple of years ago at the squadron dock. They were so impressed with our facility and all the wonderful people in our organization. They talked about retiring to Arkansas and boating on the many areas around the south. Plans have changed for them as Bob passed away this last month from brain cancer. Bob was very excited about our educational classes offered and was able to pass his advanced pilot grade this fall. All of us who knew Bob will miss him deeply. I was glad to see Dorothy attend the Change of Watch to support me. I asked her if she planned on continuing her membership, she said by all means but I don't have a boat. Well Dorothy, you have adopted many boats in our squadron and we will see to it you're on the water this summer. We also look forward to your cheesecakes at the Fitting Out Party.

The 1st Thursday of every month we have an Executive Board Meeting. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. Please let me know if you would like to attend and I will let you know where the meeting will be held. The full schedule of meetings and events will be published in the next Channel Chatter and the roster.

On March 27-29 I will be attending the D/10 Spring Conference in Madison. This is the formal Change of Watch for the District. They also have many workshops to attend to pass along new information on many subjects. We also will be promoting the Summer Rendezvous in Bayfield.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or comments. Think Spring!!!

**Cdr. Len Robinson, S**





# *Duluth Power Squadron*

## **1998 - 1999 GOALS**

1. **RETAIN 89% OF OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS AND TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP BY 5%.**
2. **CONDUCT TWO (2) PUBLIC BOATING COURSES, ONE (1) BOATING SAFELY COURSE AND ONE (1) BOAT SMART COURSE.**
3. **OFFER TWO (2) ADVANCED GRADE AND TWO (2) ELECTIVE CLASSES.**
4. **CONDUCT OPERATIONS TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. ALL BRIDGE MEMBERS TO COMPLETE.**
5. **ENROLL IN D/10 COOP ADVERTISING REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.**
6. **HOST D/10 SUMMER RENDEZVOUS IN BAYFIELD, WI.**
7. **PARTICIPATE IN FALL NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD IN SEPTEMBER.**
8. **CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY WITH OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH BOATING AND ESTABLISH A LIAISON RELATIONSHIP.**
9. **CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE U.S.P.S. EDUCATIONAL FUND BY MAKING A 100% CONTRIBUTION.**
10. **EARN THREE (3) STAR STATUS.**

---

## *Change of Watch*



Geir Seger, visiting District Officer, swears in new Commander Len Robinson as wife Lisa stands by.



Duluth Power Squadron's new Commander, Len Robinson takes the helm!







P/C David Mattson presents new 1998-1999 Commander Len Robinson with his flag!



Visiting District Officer Geir Seger holding Duluth Squadron's gift to him by new Commander Len Robinson!



New Commander Len Robinson presenting P/C Mary Brisky with her Flag Lt. flag at the Change of Watch ceremony.



Jan Starr, Jim Coslett -Canadian guest from Lakehead Power Squadron and Ginny Soetebier.



Visiting District Officers Geir Seger, Thomas Rossini and Jan Seger.



P/C Bruce Beste and his wife Chris.





# Members Receiving Merit Marks for 1997

Larry J. Anderson  
Steven Balliette  
Dean E. Baltes  
Sean R. Beaudin  
Joel F. Berg  
Peggy A. Berg  
Bruce A. Beste  
Gina L. Beste-Wuorinen  
Richard D. Bibby  
Greg R. Brisky  
Mary A. Brisky  
Robert J. Bryne  
Robert V. Campbell  
David C. Carlson  
Gerald A. Carlson  
William A. Carlson  
Gloria DeSmedt  
Jeffrey D. Dulinski  
Harlan Eggert  
Mike W. Ekholm  
Steve Farrell  
Sue Farrell  
William C. Gooder  
Norman J. Gutz  
Brian M. Haataja  
Sharon Haataja  
Jay R. Halling

Donald P. Hansen  
John Harrison  
Jean Hecht  
Robert J. Hecht  
Candance L. Hengel  
Marty Herman  
Robert S. Holmes  
Paulette M. Holt  
Thomas A. Holt  
David Jennings  
Steven P. Johnson  
John Kalenowski  
Leo Kennedy  
Murray E. Keogan  
Robert C. Kuehl  
Arthur T. Lamken  
James M. Langdon  
Donn Larson  
Erik J. Liabraaten  
Norm Livgard  
James R. Marshall  
Sidney R. Mason  
Mary A. Morrow  
James E. Munger  
James E. Naslund  
C. Bruce Nimmo  
Gordy M. Olson

Robert Ouellette  
Valerie Ouellette  
Kenneth G. Page  
Clarence G. Porter  
Joseph G. Radtke  
Adrian G. Rick  
Kathleen M. Rick  
James D. Robinson  
Leonard A. Robinson  
Eugene L. Rock  
Charles H. Rouse  
David C. Rutford  
David J. Rutford  
John W. Soetebier  
Rickard A. Stanius  
David R. Stokes  
Kristi Kay Stokes  
Robert E. Stokes  
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# Executive Officer's Report

Our winter vacation conflicted with the Change Of Watch. After figuring the arrival time, the travel time, the dinner time...well, we got our change of clothes ready before we left town. When we flew into Minneapolis, we cleared immigration, customs, got our ride back to our hotel to get the car, and started for Duluth. After a quick stop to unload our luggage and change clothes, we managed to get to the Change Of Watch. It was a great finish to a great vacation and a nice transition to spring!

At least spring is here on the calendar if not in the boatyard. Of course along with spring comes Fitting Out. The Power Squadron Fitting Out Party has always been one of my favorite get together's. I get to see friends that have been away or hibernating for the winter, and we all look forward to a new season. It was a fitting out party a few years ago that Val and I attended as guests that got us involved in the squadron after a 15 year hiatus. With

that in mind, I would encourage everyone to invite friends to join us. Have them keep April 25th open. The fitting out party is our primary fund raiser and a better turn out should help to move the auction items, as well as show potential members that we know how to have fun. The old Officers Club is a great facility and everyone should enjoy themselves. The raffle ticket sales are an important part of this project and everyone can help here. I've been buying tickets from co-workers all year, it should be easy to sell them a few.

We have River Quest coming up in May. It seems that everyone who works on this enjoys themselves. Safe Boating Week will help fill out May's calendar. We can always use a few people to pass out safe boating packets.

It looks like a great season ahead of us. Let's get those boats in the water!

**Lt/C Bob Ouellette, AP**

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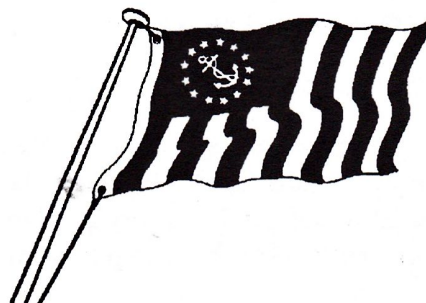
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**IN MEMORY OF**

**ROBERT S. HOLMES, AP**

**DIED: February 22, 1998**

**Bob was 55 years old and  
a member of the  
Duluth Power Squadron since 1995.**





# SEAMANSHIP:

## Keeping her Safe

I saw a poster once at a group home for children that said "A ship is safe in the harbor...but that is not what a ship is for." The poster was to help give the children the courage to get out and live their lives to the fullest, even if it meant some risk. I think of that poster as I plan the use of our little ship, Silver Seas, a 39 foot wooden power cruiser. I know there is some risk in the use I put her to as we travel about the Western end of Lake Superior. Storms, rocks, collisions and mechanical failures and general wear and tear can take their toll.

Amongst the many things that tend to raise my anxiety level about safety during the boating season is the fear of dragging anchor in a blow. I could be secure to a dock in a marina, and sleeping soundly, but I do like to anchor out even if it is an added risk to take on. I think I like the extra preparation needed for successful anchoring (and maybe I like a little extra anxiety also). I think it is worth it to experience the opportunities of a quiet bay, to see what nature has to offer on that "foreign shore" and to have a very different experience from that provided by a marina.

It takes some effort, but I generally manage to get a pretty good sleep when we are anchoring. I have a 28H Danforth that I think is big enough to do the job. I have strong nylon anchor line, and I check things out thoroughly before going to bed. We listen closely to the weather report and try to pick an anchorage that will be protected from the predicted winds. And we set that anchor hard. I really do like the feel of backing down on that nylon line and feeling the anchor grab and then the stretching of the line, bringing us gently to a stop even with the engines going strongly in reverse. And If the wind switches? That is when I lose some sleep. Are we dragging? How close to shore are we? Should I start the engines? Where do we move to? Will that shackle on the anchor hold? Did I do a good job on the eye splice? Too late now to check it.

And come morning we are fine. It may be more difficult to get the anchor up with the wind blowing, but we manage. I recall from the Cruise Planning course the quote "Of all the mechanical aids available, the anchor windlass is the most cost efficient and saves the most middle-age backs." I can see that for this 50 year old back there is a windlass in my future. Finally, the rode gets coiled on deck to dry, the anchor secured in the chocks and we are off to the next anchorage.

## **Anchoring Is On the Agenda**

This Spring we are again offering Seamanship to Squadron Members. It is scheduled for Seven sessions, Mondays, April 13 thru June 1, 1998 (no class May 25) from 6:30 to 8:30 at Duluth Central High School. Community Education has been very good to us at Central, (and at Ordean) providing us with the rooms, equipment and material we need to put on two good Public Boating classes. I am sure you will find the facility to your liking.

Along with anchoring basics, Seamanship covers in more depth subjects introduced in Public Boating:

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Marlinespike                    | 6. Marine Environment              |
| 2. Hull design and Performance     | 7. Living Aboard a Boat            |
| 3. Skippers Responsibilities       | 8. How to care for a Boat          |
| 4. Boating Under Normal Conditions | 9. Nautical Etiquette and Customs. |
| 5. Emergencies                     |                                    |

You may be new to boating and to the Power Squadron. This is your opportunity to add to your knowledge base, increase your confidence, make new boating friends, and add that 'S' to your name. And you may be an experienced boater with years of membership in the Duluth Power Squadron who has taken Seamanship years ago. Perhaps a refresher is in order or come and share your know-how with less experienced members. Everyone is welcome. See you in class and on the water.

Squadron Education Officer  
Lt/C Steve Balliette, AP





# Education - Supplemental Programs

AMATEUR RADIO  
INTRO. TO ASTRONOMY  
INTRO. TO SAILING  
PREDICTED LOG CONTEST  
OCEANOGRAPHY  
ELEMENTS OF BOAT DESIGN  
CALCULATORS FOR NAV.  
ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION

COMPASS ADJUSTING  
SKIPPER SAVER  
PREP FOR C. G. LICENSE  
BOAT INSURANCE  
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PRINCIPLES OF WATER SKIING  
SIGHT REDUCTION METHODS  
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INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE SELF-STUDY COURSES? MOST COST LESS THAN \$10.00 PER BOOK AND CAN BE EASILY ORDERED FOR YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE BOOKS, CONTACT SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER Lt/C STEVE BALLIETTE @ 724-0636.

## From the Squadron Education Office

Congratulations to Duluth's newest AP's:

Valerie Ouellette, AP

Robert S. Holmes, AP



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## 1998-1999 SQUADRON ROSTER

Squadron members, 1998-1999 Roster will be out soon. If you see any errors, please let me know so that I can correct them. In a continuing effort for a contemporary roster, I will be including the E-Mail addresses of our members who request it. If you would like your E-Mail address in the Roster please let me know by phone, E-Mail, or enter it in the working copy of the Roster at a meeting. In the future, if the interest is there, FAX numbers could also be included. It is your Roster, let the Bridge know what you think.

The downloaded copy of the National Roster will also be at the general meetings. I would appreciate any help in checking its accuracy before I up load it to National. :)

In the upcoming year, I will continue to bring the working copies of the rosters to the General Meetings. If possible, please use the red pens for any corrections or comments. If you are uncomfortable using red ink, please use blue. My aging eyes grow weary, and the contrast from the black ink does make my job easier.

I also do the squadron labels. If you know of any errors, omissions, etc, I'm the one to talk to about corrections. The General Membership labels and the Channel Chatter labels are different databases, so there could be a problem with one set of labels and not the other. Let me know which mailing isn't right.

Thank you for your help

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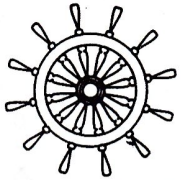
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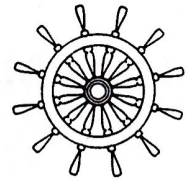
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# DULUTH POWER SQUADRON



**Fit' ting Out:** Series of maintenance tasks performed on boats ashore during good-weather weekends in spring and summer months to make them ready for winter storage.

## **Part'y: Prizes - Auction - Food - Drinks**



**Date:** April 25, 1998  
**Place:** Officers Club on Former Air Base  
**Time:** 1600 Social time and review auction items  
**Dinner:** 1800 Spit Roasted Beef Buffet  
**Auction:** 1900  
**Cost:** \$7.00 Per person plus a auctionable/worthy donation item to be sold.



This should be a fun event! We encourage you to invite a non-member, new member guest to enjoy the evening After the fun, maybe they will help polish your boat!!

### **Raffle Prizes:**

TV/VCR Combination (AC/DC)  
\$100. Gift Certificate to Blue Fin Bay  
\$50.00 Gift Certificate to the Pickwick

\*Chinese Raffle  
\*Booze Baskets  
\*Dance???  
\*Prize for most tickets sold

Raffle Tickets - on the way- SELL!! SELL!!!SELL!!!

**If you wish to chip in and help - call Bob Ouellette at 727-6079 or Dave Mattson.**





## How Many PFDs Do You Need?

*You are required by federal regulation to have USCG approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) on your recreational boat for each person on board. How many and what Type PFD(s) you'll need depends on the number of people on board, the size and type of your boat, and the kind of boating you do.*

You must have at least one wearable PFD for each person on board.

Wearable Types include:

- Off-Shore Life Jacket (Type I PFD)
- Near-Shore Buoyant Vest (Type II PFD)
- Flotation Aid (Type III PFD)
- Wearable Special Use Device (Type V PFD)

If your boat is 16 feet or longer (excluding canoes and kayaks), you must also have at least one throwable device (Type IV PFD)

For example, if there are four people on your 16 foot boat, you must have at least five PFDs - four wearable of appropriate size and one throwable PFD.





**T**he do's and don'ts of boating safety could seemingly throw a wet blanket on the fun of boating. NOT SO! Consider the following:

- Do wear a life jacket. They float. You don't.
- Do know the water and environment you will be boating on.
- Do keep a good lookout while underway.
- Do shut your engines off when people are in the water near your boat.
- Do observe the nautical rules-of-the-road.
- Do check the weather forecast before getting underway.
- Do keep a balanced load and a trim boat.
- Don't overload your boat.
- Don't stand in a small boat.
- Don't ride on the gunwale, bow, seat backs, or anyplace where it is not designed for riding.
- Don't drink and boat.

These reminders are stating a consistent theme... Use common sense when on the water. If you feel it is dangerous, it probably is.

The waterways offer an open invitation to all types of boating. Boaters should be aware of the outcome of their actions. Accidents result from a chain of circumstances or behavior. The boating do's and don'ts will help you chart a safe course toward safe, enjoyable boating. Remember... Boat Smart from the Start.

**"Boat Smart from the Start."**

## **The Do's and Don'ts of Boating Safety**

**"If it's your boat, you are in command.**

**You are responsible for the safety of your passengers and for not endangering those in other boats."**

# **NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

## ***May 16-22, 1998***







## **BOATING SAFELY**

ATTENTION MEMBERS WITH CHILDREN

A 5 SESSION COURSE THAT WILL TEACH YOUNGER BOATERS, (12-18 YRS OLD), WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW FOR SAFE, COURTEOUS WATER CRAFT OPERATION. (MUST TURN 12 YEARS OF AGE BY JUNE 22, 1998)

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS, & THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AS MEETING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS AGE GROUP, IT HAS ALSO BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE MINNESOTA & WISCONSIN DNR.

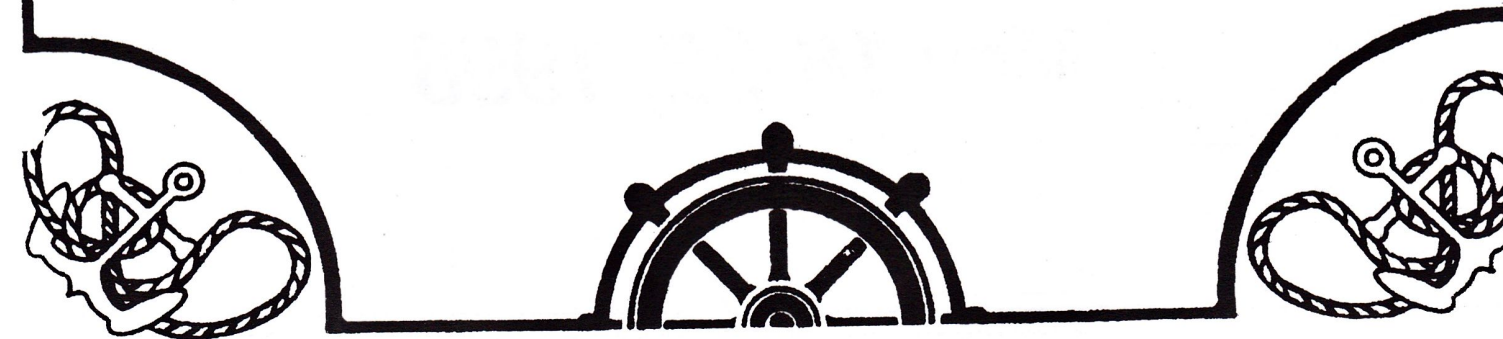
**\*\*\*WHEN: MONDAY & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8-JUNE 22, 1998**  
12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**\*\*\*WHERE:**

**\*\*\*\$10.00 FOR STUDENT MANUALS, WI DNR REGISTRATION**

**THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS CHILDREN ALSO.**

**CONTACT STEVE BALLIETTE AT 724-0636 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**







## What You Need to Know about Life Vests for Children

### ***What Is a Life Vest?***

A life vest or a life jacket is a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) that helps you and your child float and stay warm in the water.

### ***Why Should Your Child Wear a Life Vest?***

Drowning is often silent, takes as little as five minutes and usually happens when an adult is nearby. No one can watch a child every second. Here are guidelines for wearing PFDs:

- *Children between birth and five years:* on beaches, docks and in boats.
- *Children between the ages of 6-11:* on docks, boats, inner tubes and river banks.
- *Teens and adults:* on boats or inner tubes.

### ***Buying a Life Vest:***

There are different types of life vests: Types I, II, III and IV. Type I is for boating in severe conditions where rescue may be delayed. Type IV is a boat cushion or rescue ring. It does not replace a wearable PFD and should not be used by children. The types most helpful for near-shore recreational boating are:

- *Type II* — good for calm, inland water where there is a good chance of fast rescue. Smaller sizes often have high collars to help keep a child's face out of the water.
- *Type III* — provides similar flotation to Type II and offers the most comfort and freedom of movement. It comes in a variety of styles and sizes, from small child through adult. It is also best used in calm water where there's a good chance of fast rescue.
- Buy your child a PFD — there may not be one that fits to rent or borrow.

### ***When Buying a Life Vest, Check for:***

- Coast Guard approved label.
- A snug fit. Check weight and size on the label and try the PFD on your child. Pick up your child by the shoulders of the PFD; the child's chin and ears won't slip through a proper fit.
- Head support for younger children. A well designed PFD will support the child's head when the child is in the water.
- A strap between the legs for younger children. This is a good feature because it helps prevent the vest from coming off.
- Comfort and appearance. This is especially important for teens, who are less likely to wear a PFD.

### ***How Do You Use a Life Vest?***

- Every spring, check the life vest for fit as well as wear and tear. Throw it away if you find air leakage, mildew, rot or rust.
- If a child panics in the water and thrashes about, he may turn onto his face, even though a PFD with a collar is designed to keep him on his back with face out of the water. Have your child practice wearing a life vest in the water — this will help prevent panic and rolling over.
- Never alter a PFD. It could lose its effectiveness.
- Wear your own life vest to set an example, and to help your child if an emergency occurs.
- Never use toys like plastic rings or water wings in place of a PFD.

***Remember: PFDs only work when they are worn, and they do not take the place of supervision!***

For more information on PFDs, contact:

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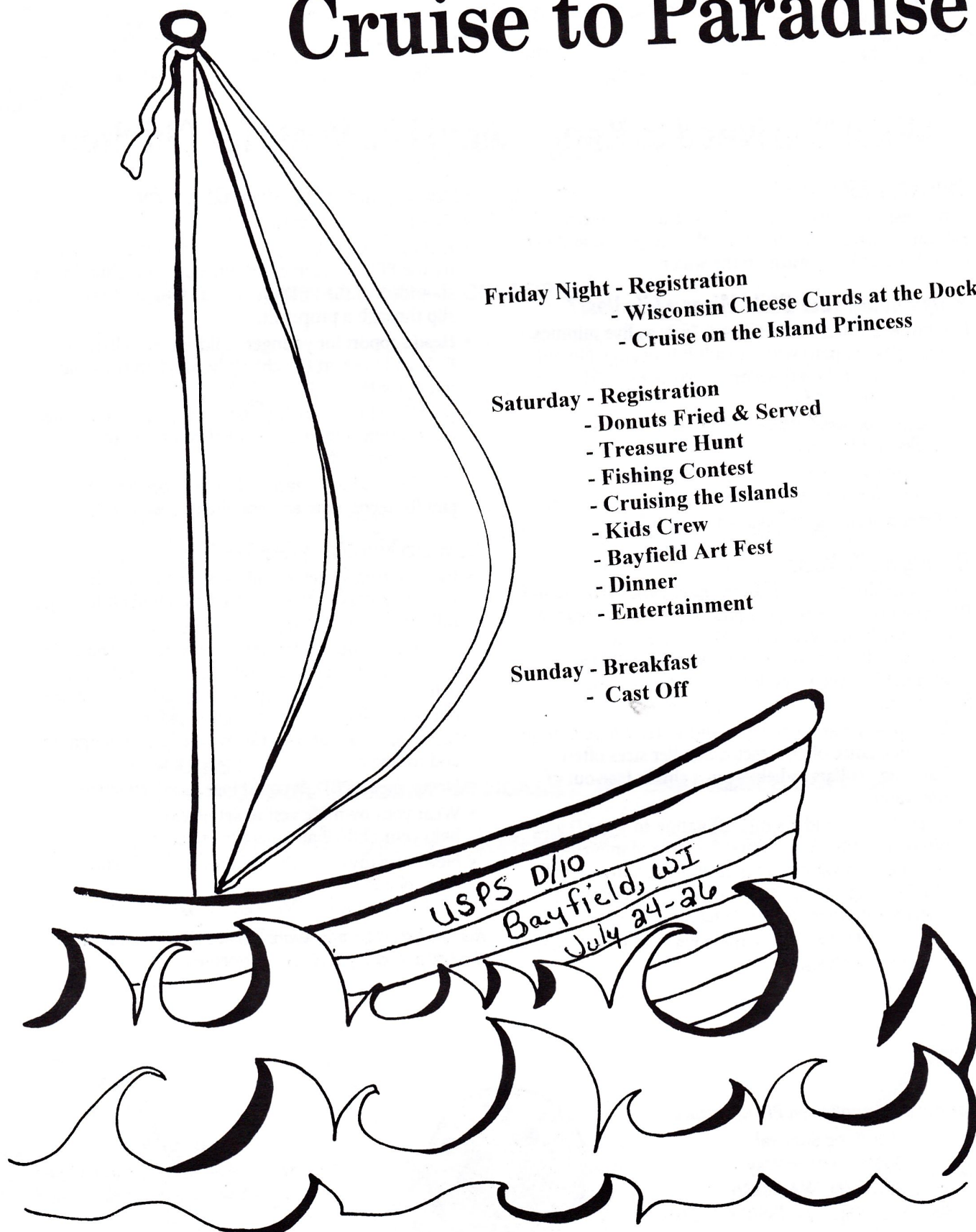


# Cruise to Paradise

**Friday Night - Registration**  
- Wisconsin Cheese Curds at the Dock  
- Cruise on the Island Princess

**Saturday - Registration**  
- Donuts Fried & Served  
- Treasure Hunt  
- Fishing Contest  
- Cruising the Islands  
- Kids Crew  
- Bayfield Art Fest  
- Dinner  
- Entertainment

**Sunday - Breakfast**  
- Cast Off





## The Sacred Calabash

If you heard there were thirteen chairs awaiting the nominees for the awarding of the Calabash, you heard right. Actually stories flowed freely this year and there could have been more.

Honorable mentions went to Dick Bibby, Dave & Kristi Stokes, and Bob & Sue Stokes (Len and Lisa should have been awarded as well) for their vote to keep the Calabash out of Sand Point and give it to Arne Wuorinen. The only problems is - Arne is a member of Sand Point.

Jerry Carlson received membership support, not for the time he motored to friends rafted in the bay on one engine because his new dock line was wrapped around the other prop but for informing Arne he forgot to allow enough line out for towing his dingy - flipping the dinghy and loosing his hand held radio.

Another favorite Calabash nominee - one who informed Arne and Gina he was clean this year - Greg Brisky. Yup, Greg was clean this year because when he went to fill the water tank on his new boat, he filled the holding tank instead.

Jack Soetibier - a boater who many squadron members have sought information from - had one of his Canadian Squadron friends tell of the treasure Jack left behind in Silver Islet. A week later Jack returned to search for it at the local dump. Later that day he found out he only needed to beg his friend to have it back. Jack's friend wondered how she would get even - her response to Jack at the ceremony was -- Gotcha!

Dean Baltes had a money saving adventure this year - he purchased a gas caddy with with dockmate in crime - Bruce Beste. On one of his trips back to the boat, Dean didn't get his foot in the clear and the gas caddy along with its contents broke Dean's ankle. Word has it he'll have to haul alot of gas to make up for the amount of money he's paid in medical bills and lost wages.

The last two - and recipients of this year's Calabash - are Rick and Linda Stanius. Rick wanted to improve the performance of their boat and felt stainless steel props were the answer. Linda, in her sound judgement, tried to inform Rick the boat was fine. Rick, still the captain of the ship, purchased the props, went to install them and came up missing a ring. Low and behold - he checked the dock, he checked the boat, he tried to net treasures off the bottom and came up empty. Calling his good friend Ken Page - he talked Ken into bringing down his scuba tank and gear to dive for the ring. Rick still found nothing. Later - contemplating what may have happened - he thought - did he ever check the prop to see if the ring was still in there - Found It. Needing to take a hot shower to relax the amount of stress he put himself through - Rick went forward. Bob Ouellette - Rick's partner in crime - convinced Linda to follow behind with a beverage of Rick's choice and a goose. The honking that was at Harbor Cove is still chuckled at today.

Rick and Linda - keep the stories flowing in the journal you receive. It makes for good reading entertainment and your friends will always wonder if their name appears or not. Also amazing is how many friends let you know of others' misfortunes.





# Spring Checklist

## Have a plan. Make a check sheet on what has been done and what you have yet to do:

Check all required legal equipment; note each piece of equipment, checking its condition and operation.

Check all lines.

Life Jackets: air and hang them in their proper place in good condition.

Fire Extinguishers: make sure they are fully charged and in place.

Whistle and Bell: aboard and operating.

Lights: proper and operating.

Anchors and Line: in good condition with the bitter end of the anchor rode secured.

Flares: and other distress equipment on board and operating.

Ship-to-Shore Radio and RDF: on board and operational.

Mechanical Check: check steering gear, making sure there are no obstructions; rudder answers to wheel.

Lubrication: lubricate anything that requires it to reduce friction, wear or corrosion.

Fuel: check all fuel-line fittings and be sure that no trace of fuel odor exists. Pay particular attention to new fittings.

Hose Connections: make sure clamps are tightened & in good condition; replace those that look bad. Now's a good time to *double-clamp* all of them.

Shaft(s): make certain that nothing is in the way and coupling bolts are tightened & secured by wire.

Batteries: fully charged and in good condition.

Crankcase Oil: at proper level.

While at dockside or at your mooring, before starting your engines, use the best sniffer you have - your nose - to smell for fumes. Then switch on bilge blowers to clear bilges before starting the engine(s).

Start your engine(s) & let them run until warm. Check oil pressures gauge(s) - positive pressure should show almost immediately. Check cooling water; discharge should flow overboard soon after starting. Check ammeter(s); charging rate should show.

Listen to the engine(s). Idling rate should be normal. Unusual sounds and/or vibration may be an indication of a problem that could be corrected before causing damage. Check forward and reverse gears. Put in forward gear just enough to produce a slight surge, then go back to neutral. Repeat with reverse gear. The transitions should be smooth.

Pump any water out of the bilge, checking the bilge pump.

See that wire connections are tight and bright.



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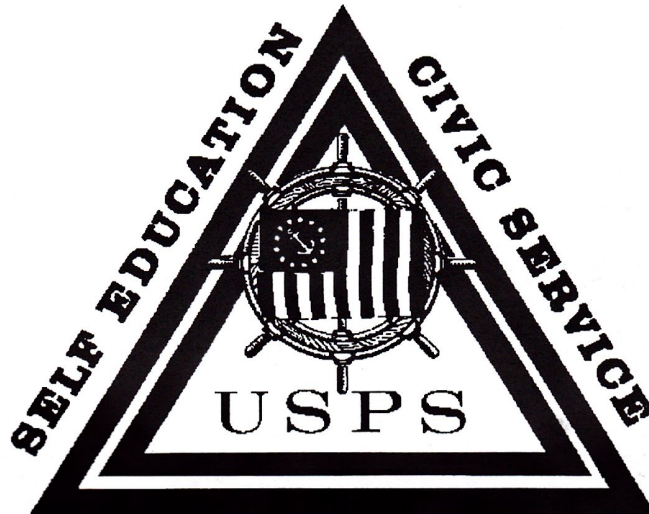


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### DEADLINE NOTICE

for the next issue  
of the Channel Chatter, June-July 1998 is

**Thursday, May 7, 1998.**

The Channel Chatter is published six times annually. All members are welcome to contribute articles and photos. Please send them to the attention of:

Peggy Berg, Editor  
Channel Chatter  
323 N. 61st Ave. W.  
Duluth, MN 55807  
624-1478 (evenings), 723-9496 (daytime)  
723-9122 (fax)

If you are submitting a photo, please also include the negative.  
All materials will be returned after publication.



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