



# Channel Chatter

**Official Publication of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron**

Volume 2009 Issue 4

August 2009



**Scenes from the Captain's Platter Fishing Contest**

Photos by Mary Jane Olson and  
Bob Ouellette, more on pages 5 & 8.



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## Commander's Report

Traditionally, our squadron calendar does not include any classes or general meetings during the summer months, as we understand that most squadron members want to spend as much time as possible on the water, especially when we have those all-too-few warm days in the Northland. The summer is busy enough. During these months, our squadron focuses on boating and squadron dock activities. Internet and email technology has made it easier for squadron members to communicate with one another and conduct squadron business, without setting a summer meeting schedule. As always, if you have any squadron-related questions or needs, please contact any of our Bridge members.

Our squadron has been using internet technology for communication on several other fronts. Although we have continued to mail out meeting and event fliers, we are also sending email correspondence and reminders. Please let us know if you are not receiving these notices and if you would like to have your email address added for future correspondence. Our squadron website is being maintained and updated on a regular basis, providing general information on our squadron with class and event schedules. It serves as a valuable resource and communication tool, not only for our members but to the general public.

It is not surprising that the July/August edition of our USPS magazine, the "Ensign" has gone to an electronic version, available only on-line for our members. This publication offers some great articles and insight into what is happening within our organization, without the printing and mailing costs of a traditional magazine. If you haven't already looked at it, I would encourage you to check it out. It can be found at: [www.theensign.org/images/ensjulaug09/](http://www.theensign.org/images/ensjulaug09/). I found it amazingly easy and fun to navigate and read this on-line edition. It is a quality publication and one of the benefits of USPS membership.

When taking a look at this year's squadron's calendar, that is listed in our roster, it is apparent that we are at the midpoint of this Watch Year. With this in mind, I would like to remind squadron officers, committee and event chairs to forward the names of members, who have already helped out this year, to Len Robinson, our Merit Mark Chair. And please continue doing so as we

move forward through the rest of the year.

In order to help collect information, Len Robinson has compiled a Merit Mark Recommendation Form, that is included in this edition of the "Channel Chatter" on page 10. By design, it allows an

individual member to submit information on him or herself, to ensure that we will have this information when making our merit mark recommendations. We would appreciate if you would complete the form, adding any additional information on other programs or activities you have helped with during the year, and submit it back to Len before the October 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline. If you prefer, we can send you an electronic version.

Since we are half way through the squadron year, we still have a number of upcoming activities, meetings, education courses offerings, and squadron department goals that we would like to accomplish prior to the end of the year. On the radar screen is the Corn Roast, scheduled for Labor Day weekend. This event requires a lot of members to be able to pull it off. Please contact Dave Stokes if you can help out with this fun event. In addition, if you are interested in learning more about any of our squadron's events or programs listed on the merit mark form, would like to get more involved, lend a hand, or earn a merit mark, please give me a call. Your squadron needs your input and help.

Wishing a great boating season,

Cdr Mary Brisky, AP



**Cdr Mary Brisky AP**

**BOAT SAFELY... THINK EDUCATION...  
REACH OUT... GET INVOLVED**

## Education Officer's Report

At this writing, we are experiencing cool nights, sunny days and variable seas—hopefully pleasing sailors and power boaters alike. I hope all of you have had safe and enjoyable boating experiences thus far.

I recently met some past public boating course students on the water familiarizing themselves with the navigation aids in the harbor. I also heard from members doing their "kitchen table work" in preparation for a cruise to and among the Apostles as well. Other cruisers, in preparation for an around the Lake jaunt, had completed their meticulous engine and systems maintenance in an effort to hopefully avoid breakdowns and to ensure uninterrupted, stress free, safe travel. It is rewarding to hear accounts of students using the safe boating skills learned during those many hours of dark, winter study.

If you have dock mates or other friends who may not have taken the Squadron Boating Course, please remind them we will offer another course on two weekends in October. See our web site for details, [www.duluthpowersquadron.com](http://www.duluthpowersquadron.com).

Exciting news for the department is that John O'Neil is heading a committee to initiate the new, on-the-water,

**Boat Operator Certificate**, beginning with the **Inland Navigator** certification. Plans to offer the courses, seminars and skill demonstrations necessary to complete this certification are in process at this time.

We are planning and organizing other fall and winter courses as well. Although we have not solidified those plans at this time, watch our website at [www.duluthpowersquadron.com](http://www.duluthpowersquadron.com) for updates prior to the next issue of *Channel Chatter* which will contain a more complete listing.

Safe Boating, where ever your adventures take you!!



**Lt/C Kay Bakke, AP**

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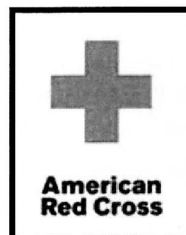
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## Executive Officer's Report

As the summer keeps rolling right along, I hope you all are taking advantage of every nice day. It is difficult to get an extended season around these parts. I have spent a good portion of my summer fishing in Lake Superior and two nice trips to Lake Michigan's Door County. If you have never been there, it is an outstanding place to visit in the summer. I go for the fishing, but there are many options for recreation when visiting. It is beautiful.



ers. We all hung out around the camp fire after the Solberg's fed us dinner off the grill. Saturday after the weigh in station closed, we had boats three deep along the dock. It looked like Corn Roast Weekend. (Minus the jumparoo and a dunk tank).



**Lt/C Todd Carlson S**

All the contestants were very pleased with the event. We signed up a few new members and performed a ton of Vessel Safety Checks on the fishing boats. We have created a Monster. It has been very enjoyable watching this contest grow. Special thanks to all that helped out putting the contest together. Greg Brisky, Dave and Lauri Solberg, Larry Evenson, Dave Mattson, Val and Bob Ouelette, Keith Kylmala, Jeff Zapp, Dave and Kristi Stokes, Marv Anderson, Ken and Mary Jane Olson, all the Vessel Examiners, all the Sponsors, and to everyone else that chipped in to help out.

See ya on the water,

Todd Carlson

The Squadron sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Captain's Platter Fishing Contest on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The event committee started having meetings back in January for the planning of this event. This year the early planning paid off. We had over 150 participants in the contest with over 35 boats. I have never seen so many people in the pavilion during the awards. The Contest awarded over \$2000.00 in door prizes plus over \$1000.00 in prizes for the division winners. What a huge success.

The committee has been working very hard the last few years to promote this event and we got what we wanted. Lots of fishermen!!! This year Karen Bray designed outstanding posters to help promote the contest. We hung them up all over town in bait shops, marinas, boat launches and the local sporting good shops. A big thank you to Karen!! The dock on Friday night was packed full of boats and camp-



## Administrative Officer's Report

Ahoy Mates, is summer ever going to arrive? It's hard to put up with 30 knot winds and record lows in mid July; we had no idea that we were so lucky for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. What a great holiday weekend of weather and fun at the Squadron Dock—it was nice to share it with several new and old members as well as escort in another Tall Ship, see a beautiful new cruise ship arrive and see an inspiring and exciting fireworks display.

This article comes to you from just off Bark Point as we head toward the Aposle Islands. It's great to be out with our cruising partners, the Schmidt's, on board the Prime Time. Ah, enough day-dreaming at sea with Kristi at the helm, it's now time to get down to business for the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron.

It's hard to believe that the Labor Day Corn Roast is fast approaching, as is the District 10 2010 Summer Rendezvous in Bayfield. Pat Joyal and his crew have a rib dinner all planned and ready to roll for the Corn Roast, but we still need volunteers to help pull this fabulous weekend event together. A planning meeting is scheduled for **Thursday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Sammy's Pizza Downtown.** Please think about what you would like to see at this year's event and step forward to lend a helping hand. It takes a lot of volunteers to put on this annual gathering and celebration.

As for the 2010 Rendezvous, co-chair Len Robinson and I are also recruiting a team of volunteers, so contact

one of us. We need a huge showing of support to show the other squadrons in our district a fabulous weekend. It was nice to give a plug for our event at this year's summer Rendezvous at Lake Winneconne and many are excited to venture north. They set the bar high during this event—wow, what a fun weekend of sun, food and camaraderie!

In closing, I would like to congratulate Executive Officer Todd Carlson on the commissioning of his beautiful new vessel. She should bring home tons of fish—way to go Todd!

I wish everyone smooth sailing, calm seas and a summer of great cruising.

Admin Dave



**Lt./C David Stokes  
and Tanner**

# Corn Roast

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**Labor Day Weekend at the  
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**September 4–7**



## Common Boat Insurance Claims...and how to avoid one

P/C Candy Hengel, SN

P/D/C Harvey A. Hengel, SN

### Striking submerged objects:

Typically after a storm, lots of debris is washed into the water. Hitting anything floating could damage your prop, rudder and shaft as well as put a hole in the bottom of the boat. If you hit something in the water, STOP and check for leaks. Water in the bilge might be an indication of serious damage. Having charts for the area and knowing how to use them might help you avoid an expensive bump.

### Water inside your boat:

The first rule of boating is to keep the water outside the boat. There are holes put in the boat's bottom to accommodate gears such as transducers, heads, etc. Many underwater holes have sea cocks which may last a few years before they get tired and fail. The openings and fittings must be periodically inspected. Out drive bellows after five years are living on borrowed times. Boats, even boats with self-bailing cockpits, can be sunk by rainwater. Clogged scuppers could cause a boat to fill with rainwater and sink.

### Collisions:

With the ever increasing number of boats on the water, collisions are on the rise. Collisions happen with docks and pilings; however collisions with other boats are the most serious. Too much speed, blind spots and inattention are usually the culprits. Good advice would be to stay to the right and pass others port to port and slow down. A good knowledge of the Rules of the Road could help to avoid out in the open collision.

In the end, the skipper should take whatever action necessary

to avoid collision and make it obvious what his intentions are early.

### Grounding:

A well known rule states: If the depth of the water is less than the boat's draft, you are aground. It is not always a good idea to attempt to power off grounding; you might get into deeper trouble not into deeper water. It is possible you could take mud into your engine causing it to overheat. Careful charting and a good depth sounder is your best defense against grounding.

Contact your Duluth Power Squadron for information on classes that can help avoid an insurance claim.



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**The 2009 Captain's Platter was a huge success with the most entrants yet.**

Lots of fish were caught and several Vessel Safety Checks were performed, as seen in the top photo where Todd Carlson does a check on Stephen Collin's hand made boat.

Dave and Lauri Solberg prepared the Friday night cookout, at right, and a couple of boys (who will remain anonymous) added what looks like bait to the lemonade, above.





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## Test Your Boating Knowledge

*...and then sign up for a USPS Course!*

1. **A Vessel Safety Check will:** a. prevent a citation or ticket      b. identify skipper experience deficiencies  
c. identify possible missing or outdated safety equipment      d. Enforce state and local regulations
2. **Sound signals are:** a. an annoyance to be avoided      b. used to tell others what you will be doing  
c. only used for fun      d. only for the use of commercial vessels
3. **A bow line is:** a. generally lighter than a spring line      b. used to keep the boat from moving away from the dock  
c. and aid in securing anchors to the deck      d. used as a hoist on sailboats
4. **Reversing course in high seas:** a. takes careful planning and concentration      b. requires the use of  
the highest wave to increase visibility      c. requires the use of idle speed      d. should never be done
5. **When overtaken by fog, the best strategy is:** a. speed up to try to outrun the fog      b. slow down so you can  
stop in half the distance of visibility      c. continue at cruising speed while monitoring your radar  
d. make a MAYDAY call on your radio
6. **In case of grounding, your first step should be to:** a. put the boat in reverse and quickly back up      b. get the boat  
into deep water immediately      c. check the crew for injuries and the boat for damage  
d. contact authorities

Answers are on page 12, or contact the DSPS Education Department for upcoming class schedules.



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- 1 and 1/2 cups cranberry juice cocktail
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 and 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- 3 tablespoons orange juice, if desired

Mix together the sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon. Add to the cranberry cocktail in a saucepan, blend. Stir in berries. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir one minute. Cool slightly. Stir in orange juice.

Very good on pancakes, ice cream, angel food cake, and waffles.



## Boating Quiz Answers

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. C | 2. B | 3. B |
| 4. A | 5. B | 6. C |

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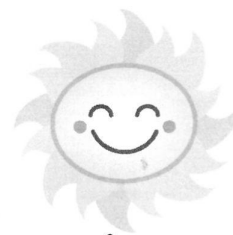
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# August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Planning Session	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 ○	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 ☾	28	29
30	31					

## Schedule of Events

- 8/13 Corn Roast Planning Session at Sammy's Pizza Downtown Duluth at 5:30 pm. Please come and bring your ideas for a successful event!



For the most up-to-the-minute information, see  
[www.duluthpowersquadron.com](http://www.duluthpowersquadron.com)

## Schedule of September 2009 Events

- 9/3 Executive Board Meeting
- 9/4—7 Corn Roast Event at the Squadron Dock
- 9/17 General Meeting. Watch your mail for a flyer with details.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Exec. Meeting	4 Corn Roast	5
6 Corn Roast	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12 ☾
13	14	15	16	17 General Meeting	18 ○	19
20	21	22 Autumn	23	24	25	26 ☾
27	28	29	30			

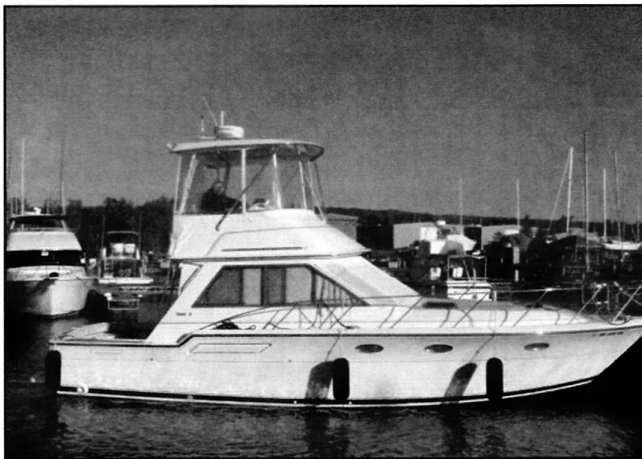


## MEMBER'S MARKETPLACE

USPS members may place one want ad (3.5"x2") free of charge. Continuation of the ad in subsequent issues may be purchased for \$10 per issue, payable in advance. Larger ads may be purchased by arrangements with the editor.

Checks should be made out to DSPS, and must be mailed by 9/15/09 to be included in the October issue.

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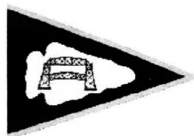
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COVE, CREEK, ESTUARY, FOUNTAIN,  
GULF, INLET, LAGOON,  
LAKE, LOCH, MAIN, OASIS,  
OCEAN, POND, POOL, PUDDLE,  
RAPIDS, RESERVOIR, RILL, RIVER,  
RIVULET, ROLLER, RUNNEL,  
SEA, SHALLOWS, SOUND, SPRING,  
STRAIT, STREAM, SURF,  
TIDE, TRIBUTARY, WADI, WASH,  
WATER, WATERCOURSE,  
WATERFALL, WATER HOLE, WATERWAY,  
WAVE, WEIR, WELL.

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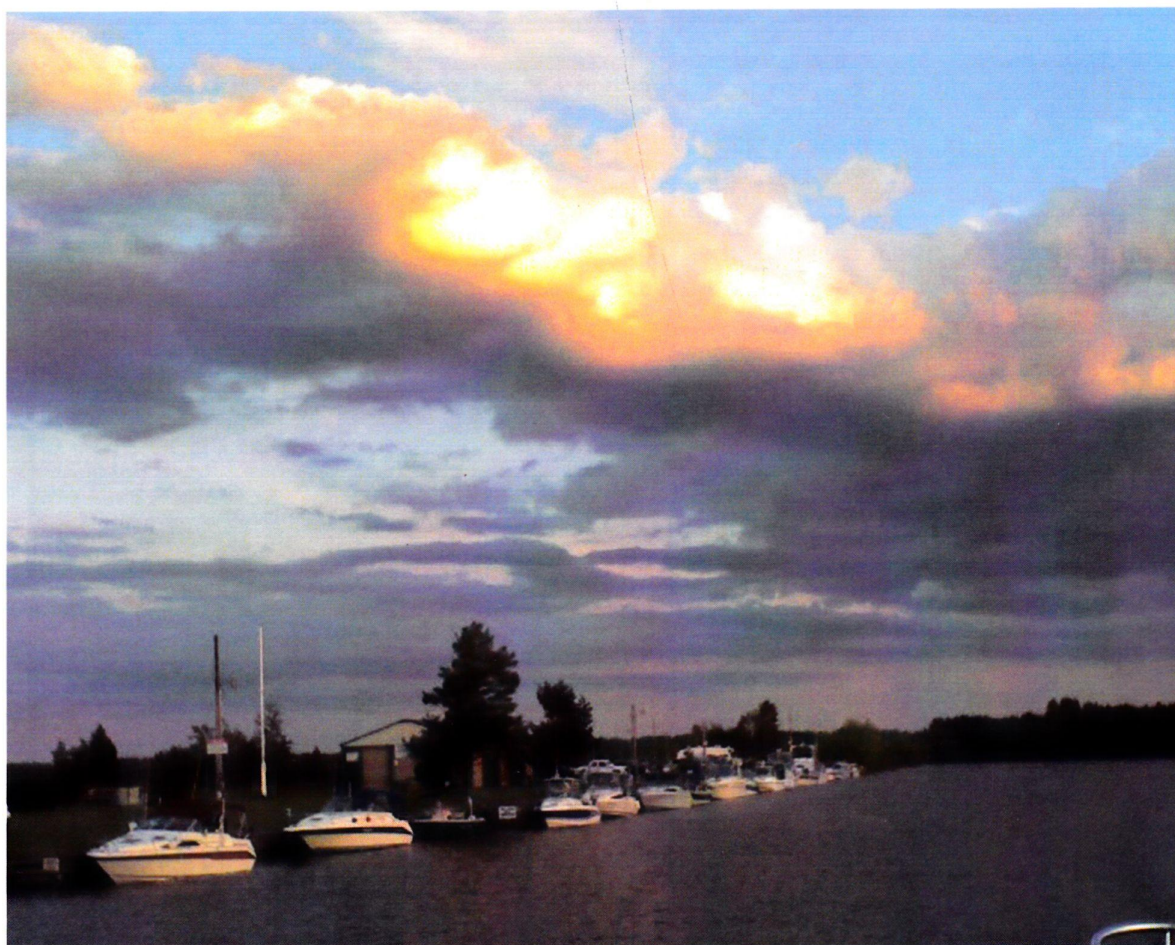
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