

Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

# Channel Chatter



United States Power Squadrons



## Duluth Sail and Power Squadron Holiday Party.

More photos on page 8 & 9.



Volume 2011. Issue 6

December, 2011

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The *Channel Chatter* is published six times per year for the members of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®.

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Photos by P/C Dave Mattson



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## Squadron Commander

### Commanders Report 2011

After a frantic high pressure pace in 2010, some wanted a bit more relaxed 2011. In some respects, we've accomplished that, but we certainly haven't been asleep at the helm. We decided to keep things fresh with new ideas as well as continue old traditions.

Let's take a cruise through the waters of 2011. It all started with one of the best Changes of Watch in recent history; bagpipes, Thunder Bay's Commander & our newly appointed D-10 Commander and his family were among the highlights.

The next day found us at our winter dock party with record numbers and record temperatures welcoming our special guests, the Skelley's. Before we knew it, we were back at the dock for spring cleanup, the Captain's Platter Fishing Contest and the East West Sailboat Regatta. Dock cleanup day has always been a right of spring. Unfortunately, the weather this spring was hurricane/snowstorm-like, but dock-masters Solberg and Pratt still managed to pull something off. Meanwhile, the latter two events continue to grow under the leadership of P/C Todd Carlson and Admin Officer Pat Joyal. We continue to conduct large numbers of VSC's at both events as well as introduce other boaters to the Squadron. For the season, just over 270 VSC's were performed. Thanks to these two very popular events, dozens of new members have been recruited to our squadron.

The Duluth Sail and Power Squadron participated once again in the Annual River Quest event that educates more than 1,000 area 6<sup>th</sup> graders on various water-related topics. This event takes place on board the Vista Star tour vessel in which kids are taken out twice daily over the span of a week. The DSPS station educated kids on the importance of life jackets and water safety.

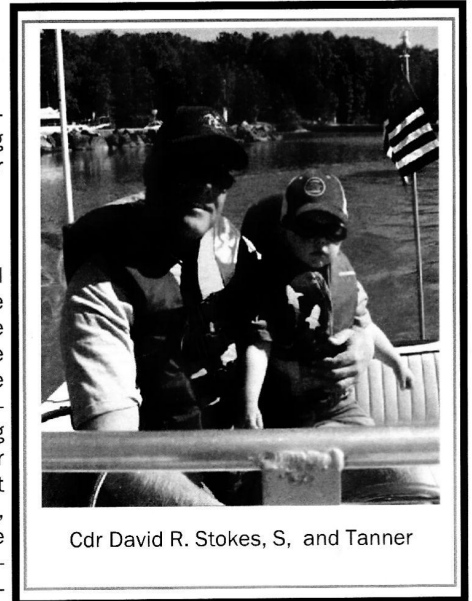
Fourth of July has been a time of camaraderie and celebration for members at the dock. It was announced this year that the 2012 4<sup>th</sup> will be a special one as Bridge member Jason Schmitke and his fiancé' Leslie will be getting married with a Squadron flare—a wedding reception at the dock. Wow.

As we moved into fall, our traditional Corn Roast continues to get better with each passing year. Record attendance of new and old members and great weather welcomed everyone. More than 60 kids participated in games and events; truly making this a family event. The Corn Roast continues to attract potential new members as well and the talk is definitely around the harbor.

This year, I am also proud to announce a brand new effort. Admin Officer Pat Joyal formed a partnership with Mentor Duluth. These are kids who are waiting for special mentors in their lives. We invited 25 kids to our dock facility for a fun-filled afternoon of boating safety education, lunch and a trip out on Lake Superior. A well crafted press release even attracted the news media to this event

with the M/V Purr-ecious Time serving as the press boat for TV crews.

One other annual collaboration that we are proud of is the partnership with the area Shriners. We've developed a trade-out with them using their building for our annual Fitting Out Party fund raiser, and having the Shrine summer picnic at our Dock facility. This partnership has been good for both organizations!



Cdr David R. Stokes, S, and Tanner

Now that the boats have been hauled out of the water, we were pleased to have a fabulous general meeting with Guest Speaker Sandy Hoff discussing potential Bayfront redevelopment. More than 60 members came out to hear the presentation and lend their support to the project. This was followed up by the Annual Christmas Party and great cheer as a full-room of members gathered to celebrate the season and then venture to the opening of Bentleyville Tour of Lights at Bayfront Park.

Rounding out the year, our education department has done a fabulous job in offering a variety of classes to both the public and membership. There were three Safe-Boating classes and one Piloting class. As Commander, I attended the Safe-Boating classes to promote membership in the Squadron and I also attended the Piloting class. In addition, we held seminars on anchoring, weather, rules of the road and trailering. We already have courses planned for January 2012 in Advanced Piloting, Weather and Safe Boating.

As I submit this report the overall health of this Squadron is strong. The finances and leadership are solid and with new younger members coming aboard, the future looks bright. That said, the challenge of finding new leaders in a very busy society is a real one. All volunteer organizations struggle to fill positions it seems these days. Therefore, I've focused hard this year on stream-lining all aspects of this organization to make it easier and more attractive to serve.

In closing, I was also pleased to have attended both the spring and fall district conferences. It is always motivating to connect with fellow squadron leadership. In addition, I conducted seven Executive Board meetings through the course of the year at the local level, as well as more than a dozen planning meetings for various events.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ***Squadron Educational Officer***

Classes for 2012

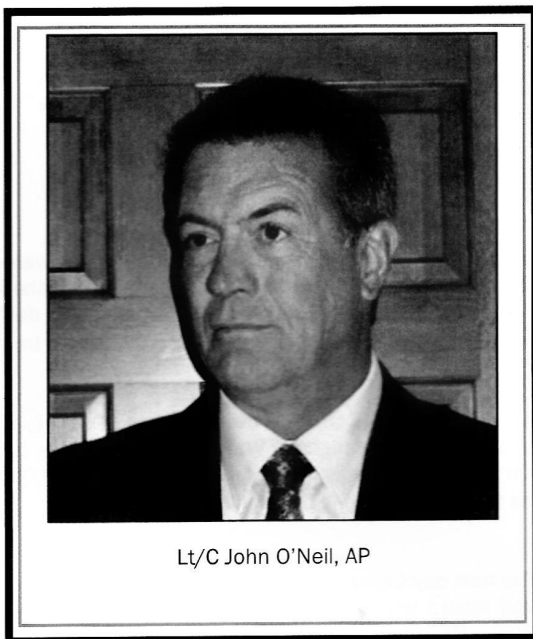
ADVANCED PILOTING WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY, MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

Classes needing more interest to hold:

Weather  
Engine Maintenance  
Seamanship

### **SAFE BOATING**

COURSE 1      Mondays beginning JAN 23, 2012  
COURSE 2      Mondays beginning March 12, 2012  
COURSE 3      Saturdays April 14, 23, 28 2012



Lt/C John O'Neil, AP

This is our chance to get people educated and hopefully increase the Squadron Membership. Talk it up.

Special thanks to Mike Leland, Rami Guirguis, Duane Flynn, Steve Farrell and Les Watters. They have committed to help teach the Safe Boating Classes in spring of 2012. I will be contacting all certified instructors for assistance in 2012.

Be sure to check out the website for all information. [www.duluthsailandpowersquadron.com](http://www.duluthsailandpowersquadron.com)

SEO John P. O'Neil, AP

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*(Commander's Report continued from page 3)*

We have had anything but a slow year. As reported earlier, it's exciting to hear the positive talk around the harbor about the DSPS—and rightfully so. The DSPS has much to be proud of as we rapidly move into 2012.

In addition, we should all be proud of the great work of Karen Bray on our organization's Channel Chatter. Not only does she produce a top-notch publication for us locally, but she's also the editor for the district publication as well. Thanks for the hard work, Karen!

Happy Holidays

Smooth Sailing

Commander Dave Stokes

## **Merit Marks**

LAST CHANCE FOR A MERIT MARK – 2010.

Submit your information if you have not done so, to P/C Len Robinson  
([robhideaway@msn.com](mailto:robhideaway@msn.com)) by January 31, 2012. Thank you!

(see Merit Mark form on page 10)



## Squadron Executive Officer

Happy Holidays All,

It has been a Great Fall, weather wise, and this should have given all the members the opportunity to get their boats out of the water, cleaned up and put to bed for the winter months. Remember every warm day now is one less cold day and one day closer to next year's boating season!!!

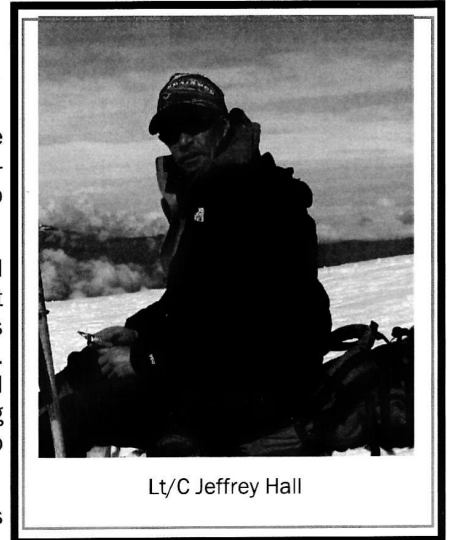
I was fortunate enough to get a seat at the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron General membership meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> held at the Pickwick restaurant in Duluth. It was a very informative and well attended meeting. The Highlight of the evening was the presentation done by Sandy Hoff representing the Pier B LLC Development Group. There are many very positive ideas being discussed with this development project. All of the ideas being discussed will benefit all citizens of Duluth as well as the boating community. For more information on this project copy and paste link into a web browser <http://www.fox21online.com/news/bayfront-0>.

As the cold weather sets in don't forget to check the Duluth Sail and Power Squadrons website <http://www.usps.org/localusps/duluth/> for events and educational opportunities. It is never too late to take a class to help keep your skills sharp and or possibly learn a new one for next season's boating adventures.

Remember SAFE BOATING STARTS WITH YOU!!!!!!

Paula, Dusty, and I, and the entire Board wish you all a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Captain Jeff [sailor1jp@hotmail.com](mailto:sailor1jp@hotmail.com) 218-390-8170



Lt/C Jeffrey Hall

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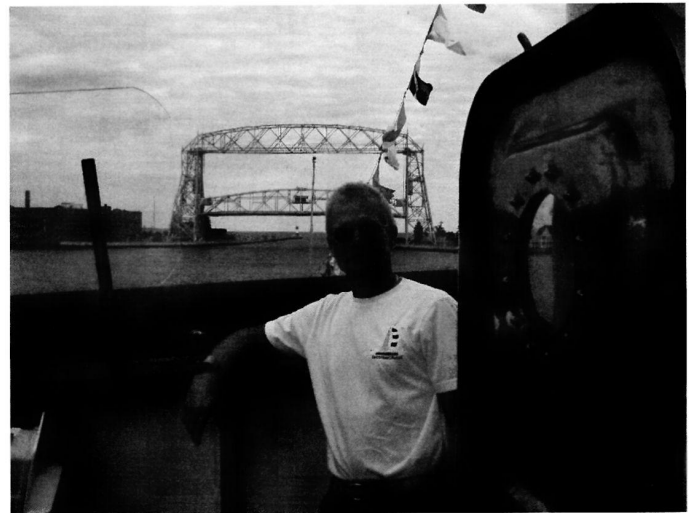
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Exec. Officer Jeff Hall on the bridge of the Sundew, July, 2011.



An item of jewelry was found at Corn Roast. Please contact P/C Dave Carlson to identify and claim. 218-393-6222

## Squadron Administrative Officer

**Admin Pat's column will return in our next issue.**

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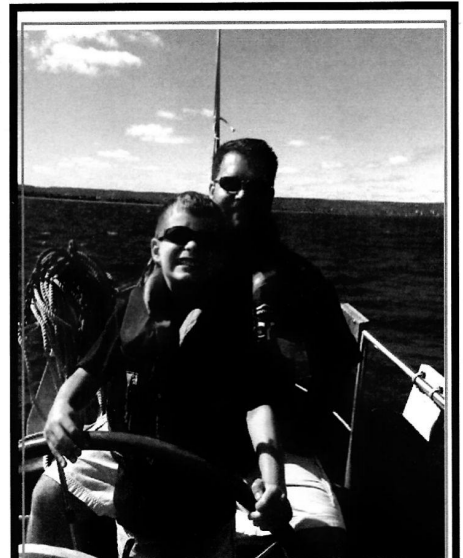
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## D10 Fall Conference

### Congratulations!

District 10 Commander Mike Skelley presented 50 Year Awards to Bernard L. Beatty P, and David F. Poulin AP, at the D-10 Fall Conference in St. Paul. Cdr Dave Stokes was on hand to accept the awards.



Photo by Jean Peterson

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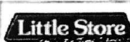
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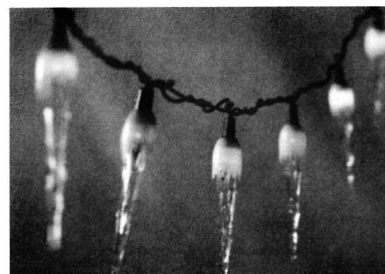
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## Scenes from the DSPS Holiday Party, 19 November 2011 at Grandma's Saloon & Grill.

Photos by P/C Dave Mattson



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### Duluth Sail and Power Squadron Merit Mark Information Form

Name (as it appears on certificate): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron Member of \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which activities you have been involved with since January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Please use additional space to list activities which do not appear on form.

#### Education

Classes Taught or assisted \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times \_\_\_\_\_  
 Classes proctored \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times \_\_\_\_\_  
 Helped organize/coordinate classes \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Developed teaching aids \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interviewed Public Boating Class members \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times \_\_\_\_\_

#### Office Held / Committees Served On

Position Held \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position Held \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 National or District Office Held \_\_\_\_\_

#### Meetings / Events

Presentations at General Meetings / Events \_\_\_\_\_  
 Content of presentation \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 National or District Conferences attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organized District Events \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organized / Helped with Squadron Events \_\_\_\_\_  
 Responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Developed / Mailed flyers. Event \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Geodetic Markers filed \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_

#### Etc.

Distributed Safe Boating Material (where) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vessel Safety Check Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Number of checks done \_\_\_\_\_  
 River Quest Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Number of sessions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Promoted USPS/DPS How? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dock Cleanup / Projects \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wrote articles/submitted photo for Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
 Content of article / photo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Calling Committee - number of calls made \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other activities & activities not listed above:

Submit by mail to: P/C Len Robinson

E-Mail to: robhideaway@msn.com

77 Hideaway Lane OR

Fax to: 715-392-1452

Esko, MN 55733

**NO LATER** than January 31

## Member's Marketplace

DSPS members may place one want ad (3.5" x 2") 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 11/15/11 for the December 1 issue.

Send your check to Karen Bray, 2024 Minnesota Ave., Duluth, MN 55802.



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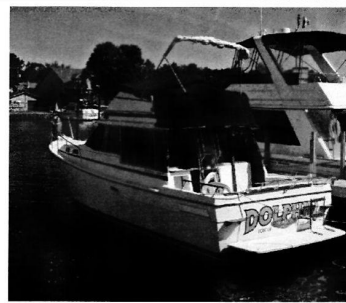


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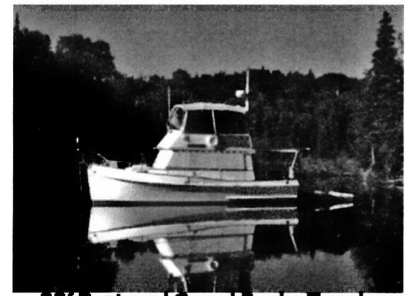
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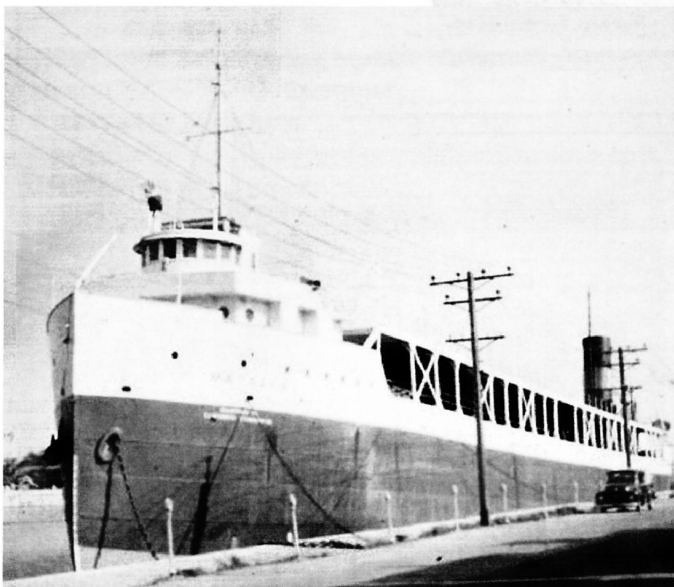
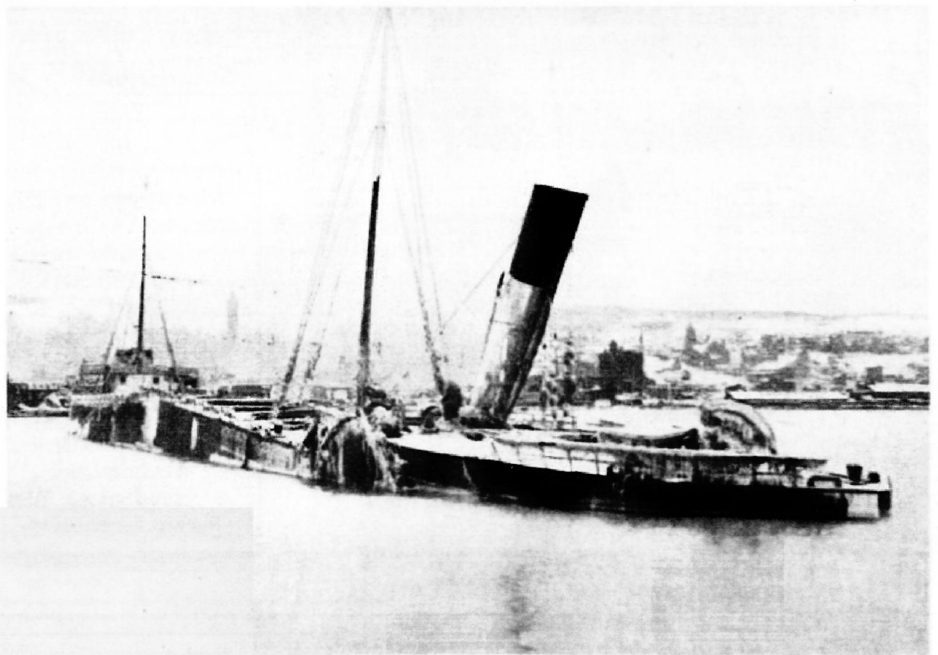
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## Harbor History



On November 27, 1905 a gale swept Lake Superior with snow, ice pellets, freezing temperatures and mountainous seas causing havoc all over the big lake. The 450 foot ore carrier, Mataafa, had left the Duluth harbor with a full load. The Captain decided to return to the Duluth harbor entry to seek shelter. The Mataafa was caught by the current and



pushed off course. The hull hit bottom, smashed the north pier and soon lost power. The ship and all on board were at the mercy of the wind, waves, and current; it was driven aground and broken into three pieces. Nine crew members died of exposure before conditions subsided enough for the remaining 15 sailors to be rescued on November 29. Amazingly, the battered Mataafa was not only refloated, but it was repaired and operated until 1964 (photo left).



## Wearing Your Life Jacket

Reprinted from the US Coast Guard  
Boating Safety Resource Center

Boaters enjoy the feel of sun and spray. So it's tempting to boat without wearing a life jacket — especially on nice days. But modern life jackets are available in a wide variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Many are thin and flexible. Some are built right into fishing vests or hunter coats. Others are inflatable — as compact as a scarf or fanny pack until they hit water, when they automatically fill with air.

There's no excuse not to wear a life jacket on the water!

### Things to Know:

- Certain life jackets are designed to keep your head above water and help you remain in a position which permits proper breathing.
- To meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements, a boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, or V life jacket for each person aboard. Boats 16 feet and over must have at least one Type IV throwable device as well.
- All states have regulations regarding life jacket wear by children.
- Adult-sized life jackets will not work for children. Special life jackets are available. To work correctly, a life jacket must be worn, fit snugly, and not allow the child's chin or ears to slip through.
- Life jackets should be tested for wear and buoyancy at least once each year. Waterlogged, faded, or leaky jackets should be discarded.
- Life jackets must be properly stowed.

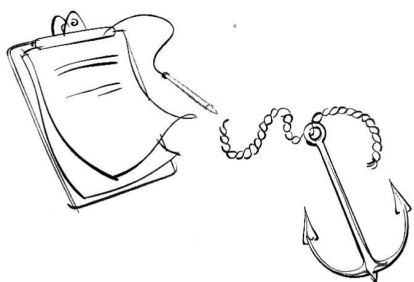
**A life jacket — especially a snug-fitting flotation coat or deck-suit style — can help you survive in cold water.**

### How Do Life Jackets Save Lives?

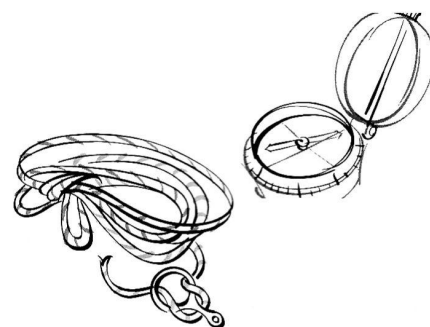


- When capsized in rough water.
- When sinking in unexpectedly heavy sea conditions.
- When thrown from the boat as a result of a collision.
- When injured by rocks or submerged objects.
- When unconscious from carbon monoxide fumes.
- When tossed into freezing water.
- When thrown off balance while fishing.
- When unable to swim because of heavy or waterlogged clothing.

*All recreational boats must carry one wearable lifejacket (Type I, II, III or Type V lifejacket) for each person aboard. A Type V lifejacket provides performance of either a Type I, II, or III lifejacket (as marked on its label) and must be used according to the label requirements. Any boat 16ft and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must also carry one throwable life-jacket (Type IV lifejacket).*



## Safe Boating Knowledge is a Great Holiday Gift!



### SAFE BOATING COURSES 2012

CLASS ONE – START MONDAY JANUARY 23, 2012 – March 12, 2012 No Class on Feb 20th

CLASS TWO – START MONDAY MARCH 12, 2012 – APRIL 30, 2012 No class on April 9

CLASS THREE - SATURDAY'S APRIL 14, 21, and 28, 2012

Location for class 1 and 2 Woodland Middle School 201 Clover Street Duluth, MN

Location for class 3 – To be determined.

Register on line at [www.duluthsailandpowersquadron.com](http://www.duluthsailandpowersquadron.com)

COST: \$65.00 (Register 30 days in advance for a \$20.00 discount).

Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete America's Boating Course. And, this beginner boating class will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states.

### Boating Safety Topics

The boat and water safety course topics include:

- Introduction to Boating: types of power boats; sailboats; outboards; paddle boats; houseboats; different uses of boats; various power boating engines; jet drives; family boating basics.
- Boating Law: boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; protecting the marine environment; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements.
- Boat Safety Equipment: personal flotation devices ("life jackets"); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment.
- Safe Boating: bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor; safe PWC handling; general water safety.
- Navigation: the U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC "tunnel vision."
- Boating Problems: hypothermia; boating accidents and rescues; man overboard recovery; capsizing; running aground; river hazards; strainers; emergency radio calls; engine problems; equipment failures; carbon monoxide (CO); other boating and PWC problems.
- Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat: types of trailers; trailer brakes, lights, hitches, tires, and bearings; loading, balancing, and towing (and backing) a trailer; boat launching and retrieving; boat storage and theft protection; launching, retrieving and storing a PWC.
- Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating: carrying hunting gear and weapons in a boat; fishing from a boat; water-skiing safety guidelines and hand signals; water-skiing with a PWC; navigating Rivers, and other boating tips.

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# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 )	3
4	5	6 St. Nicholas Day	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10 ○
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 )	19	20 Hanukkah Begins	21	22 Winter Solstice 5:30 pm	23 Festivus	24 
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 

The **winter solstice** occurs exactly when the axial tilt of a planet's polar hemisphere is farthest away from the star that it orbits. Earth's maximum axial tilt to our star, the Sun, during a solstice is  $23^{\circ} 26'$ . More evidently from high latitudes, a hemisphere's winter solstice occurs on the shortest day and longest night of the year, when the sun's daily maximum elevation in the sky is the lowest. Since the winter solstice lasts only a moment in time, other terms are often used for the day on which it occurs, such as *midwinter*, the longest night or the first day of winter.



# January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ) Happy New Year	2	3	4 Executive board meeting	5	6	7
8	9 ○	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 ) Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Safe Boating	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Safe Boating	31				

Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

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The U.S. Coast Guard Alder loading heavy equipment onto the Canadian Coast Guard Cutter Samuel Risley, 28 November, 2011.  
Photo by Cdr Dave Stokes