

Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

# Channel Chatter

## Summer Fun



Above: A fire dancer at the Labor Day Corn Roast.  
Left: Volunteering at the Dragon Boat Festival.  
Below: Jason Smitke grilling in Corny.



United States Power Squadrons

Volume 2013 Issue 3

Fall 2013

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Photos in this issue were taken by  
P/C Editor Dave Stokes and members

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

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# Commander's Report

Hello Captains and Crew,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer. Fall seems to be here now and, as with every year, this is a great time for boating but a little melancholy because we know that the chill in the air means it will soon be time to haul out. But so it goes and another cycle begins for those of us who boat where the water is hard in the winter.

My goal in this issue of the *Channel Chatter* is to encourage you to get engaged with the Squadron and help us evolve it into the organization that you want it to be. We have about 200 members and are quite a strong Squadron relative to others in District 10 and in the country. We have a core group of probably about 20 who are always willing to step up to make things like the Corn Roast and Mentor Duluth happen, and I believe these folks all do this because they enjoy it and enjoy being part of the organization. I would like to get every member involved, but at the level you all want to be involved.

So I believe my job now is to identify what will make you want to participate because you enjoy it and not because you feel obligated. We all have different motivations, reasons for being in the squadron, and activities in which we want to participate.

I have come to realize that everyone will not participate in every event and that is why we have a wide variety of activities, from the Captain's Platter to hosting the East West Sailing Regatta to general meetings with presentations of interest to the formal Change of Watch. These have been the staple in years past, but let's not be stagnant and held to these few. This is where we can evolve and develop new events or activities to accommodate the changing needs of today's busy lives.

I know there have been many other activities in the past and we should bring these back if this is what you want, and we should also find new things to do. So, write or call or email me and tell me what you want. Is it black tie dinners or parties on the beach, is it educational seminars or



support with online learning, is it more community involvement and volunteer opportunities? I believe it should be all of these and more, and if we find individuals who are passionate about each of these, we can have it all.

I look forward to hearing from all of you on how we should direct the future of our Squadron. My contact details are below, so please use them.

Cheers,

Lt/C Lance R. Olson, P  
DSPS Commander

Email: lance\_r\_olson@hotmail.com  
Home: 715-398-0140  
Mobile: 218-340-3598

**There have been many other activities in the past. We should bring these back, if that's what members want, and we should also find new things to do. Write or call or email me and tell me what you want.**

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## Educational Officer's Report

This time of year I get a little nostalgic about what kind of summer it was. We had a late start and a wet and cold June and July. It's the end of August and I'm sitting on the dock at Stockton Island, in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, thinking about what to write. Thankfully the wind has picked up, keeping the mosquitoes at bay. As I watch the incredible sunset and enjoy the muted voices coming from boats and others on the dock I'm reminded of the wonderful memories that the islands have given me.

The family has spent more than 30 years cruising around the islands. We all have our favorites, I think Rocky is mine. Fifty years ago I came to Rocky on the excursion boat with my friend Becky Lindgren and her family. There was a "café" by the dock that served fish lunches for the visitors. What a hoot. Lindgren's owned the logging camp around from the sand spit. We would come up twice a year for a long weekend. As time passed and we were off to college I missed a few years. In the mid '70s, Steve and I, along with his two boys, came and camped on Rocky before we bought our boat. Our children have grown up in the islands learning to make friends fast, for you never knew how long they were staying. We have met many wonderful people sailing in the Apostles. A couple of years ago we met Beth and Warren

Post. They were camping and we were at the dock. Warren loves sailboats (they now own an Islander 28) and he and Steve spent the next hour or so talking boats. Beth came looking for him, as wives will often have to do, and this friendship with the Posts was meant to happen. I think that there is a certain magic in the Islands and we all need to protect and treat the area with respect so that further generations will be able to enjoy the beauty and the magic that we have come to know.



Now, getting to the Education part of this article. Bob Bruce will be teaching Seamanship this October. Please check the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron website for more information. We are hoping to get a couple of seminars going this fall. Les Watters has tentatively set up the spring ABC class for the end of March, and I am working on both ABC class for winter and piloting class for spring. Have a wonderful fall and remember your PFDs. Happy boating.

Lt/C Mary Rantala, Educational Officer

## Executive Officer's Report

Hello all, I hope your summer was great ... as short as it was! As we all slip into fall boating and boat-out mode, I want to say thank you to all who helped, joined and participated in our squadron events this season. I hope you all had some great times on the water this season. My family and I sure did! I made all three fishing tournaments in the area – Jaws, Captain's Platter and the Silver Bay Salmon Classic – as well as two straight weeks in the Apostle Islands. It was an amazing vacation. I'm sold on the water forever!!! The islands are a treasure right in our back yard.

In brief, I feel all our squadron events were a hit this year. Corn Roast was an adventure, Mentor Duluth was great. To watch the kids' faces as they get on a boat and ride on Lake Superior, which some have never done, to watch them learn how to drive a boat. It was great and a great feeling to help and volunteer. Thanks to commander Lance Olson and past commander David Stokes for their time and boats.

In closing, this is a very sad time of the year for me, to see boats come out of the water and go to sleep for a long winter's rest, as I live and breathe for the water. But we



have lots of classes to offer in the offseason and some fun events to keep in touch. Remember your maintenance schedule for your ships so they get put away correctly and have a great fall and winter.

May you have calm seas and smooth sailing ahead!! See you back in the water in 2014. Jason the Windtalker signing off clear back to 16!! Out!

Lt/C Jason A. Smitke, aka Windtalker  
Executive Officer



# Administrative Officer's Report

Greetings members,

As another fantastic summer here in Duluth comes to a close and we begin to gather our winterizing supplies, it gives us a moment to reflect on the great times had with the Duluth Power and Sail Squadron. Recently, we had another great Labor Day Corn Roast Weekend, attended by many and favored by all.

This year we introduced some new changes, including a Saturday night Potluck Dinner and a Pig Roast to accompany our roast of corn. We also brought in a couple new entertainment options for Sunday night that were truly enjoyed by all, including Caribbean fire dancers and some fresh local talent named the Young Outlaws. These events were well received by our membership and we look to add them to the rest of our annual events. Unfortunately, the air balloon rides were cancelled due to challenges with wind; however this is certainly something that we will try to bring back in 2014.

We had well over 40 children and young adults take part in the annual games, and it is easy to say that this has become a very strong part of our weekend. We look forward to involving more youth in the DSPS events as these are the individuals that will someday keep our squadron going.

## We had another great Labor Day Corn Roast Weekend, attended by many and favored by all.

As we take notes and plan for next year's events feel free to throw some ideas my way and we will take them into consideration as we put together a great 2014. On a side note, we are always challenged to find individuals to take part in the planning and execution of our events. When we send out calls to action, this is a great opportunity to get involved in the DSPS events. Even if you can play a small part, we will take it.

In closing, thank you to all the individuals who took part in the planning, organizing and execution of another great Corn Roast weekend! Without you guys our annual events would not take place.



Above: Lt/C Tom Linderholm and daughter Brianna.

Below: Tom preps the pig for roasting at the Labor Day Corn Roast.



See you on the ice, and keep your eyes peeled for your Christmas Party invitation that will be in the mail soon. Cheers!

Lt/C Tom Linderholm  
Administrative Officer



# Nominating Committee

Greetings from the Nominating Committee,

It has once again been a busy season for the Squadron. We have had many great accomplishments on several fronts. From the Change of Watch to Mentor Duluth, this Bridge has had milestones. Now comes the time when the Nom-Com has diligent work trying to seek the next leaders in the Squadron.

If you wonder what this means, the task is this: If you have the time to invest in the Squadron, please make yourself known. Over the past years we have learned that the more hands on deck, the better for us all. With the leadership we have had the past few years, the operations on the Squadron are running on well-greased wheels. If you find yourself with some talents that we can use, please make yourself known. If it's assisting on a committee or stepping up to chair an event or even being in the running for Commander, **WE WANT YOUR HELP!** The Nominating Committee only has eyes and ears to find you; we need



Todd Carlson and Rachel starting their vacation from Rice Point Marina.

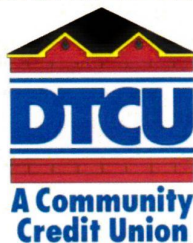
your help keeping the magic happening! It's your spirit and support that keeps fueling the fire.

Please call Todd Carlson, Pat Joyal or Dave Stokes if you are willing to help this great organization prosper. Remember, this is **YOUR** Squadron! Be proud.



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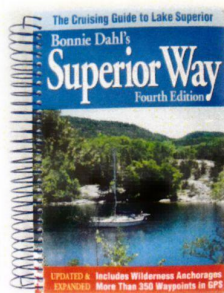
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# Dragon Boat Festival

*It takes a team to paddle a boat, but it takes an even bigger one to get those boats in the water!*

Since its inception, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival has relied on the Duluth Boat Club to provide the “on the water” people and expertise.

The DBC as an organization of different boating groups draws on the expertise of these groups for volunteers. The Duluth Sail and Power Squadron members have again been the resource for the “start, chase and safety boats.” The experience and seamanship of Squadron members helps ensure we have competent people on the water. Squadron members who assisted on or near the race course included Dave Carlson, Murray George, Dave Poulin, Bob and Val Ouellette, Jason Smitke, and Dave and Tanner Stokes.

The DBC’s goal of building a Watersports Center is primarily funded through this event under a contract with

the Rotaries.

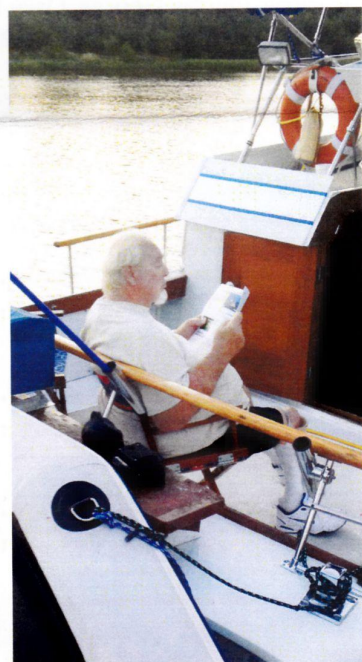
Thanks to all who participated, it was a great weekend!

P/C Bob Ouellette





## Labor Day Corn Roast



Clockwise from top left:  
Checking on the roasted pig; the Corn  
Roast Royalty, Chris and Nikki, joining  
last year's royalty; Captain Marv  
enjoying a *Channel Chatter*; balloon  
decorations at the pavilion; Todd  
Carlson filling water balloons for the  
kids.





Clockwise from above: Top brass at the Corn Roast; the water balloon toss and prize table were big hits with the kids; enjoying the Dinghy Run at the Superior entry beach.







This page, clockwise from above: Husking corn for the roast; lining up to try the dunk tank; the cooks. Facing page, clockwise from top: Water balloon attack on Bob; the kids' medal ceremony; the bounce house and pony rides; Squadron Dock neighbors Jerry and Elie May.



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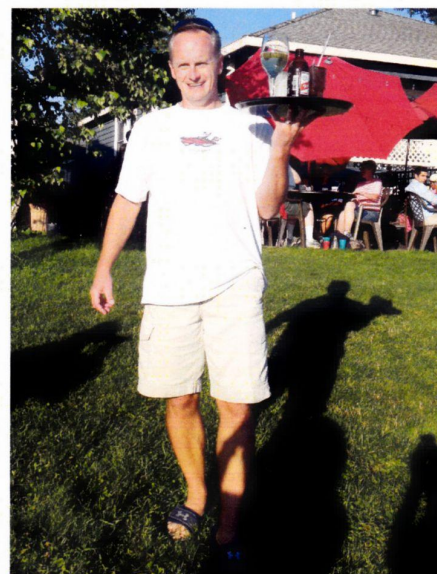
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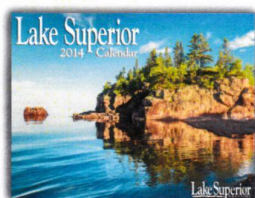
## Summer Fun



Clockwise from left: Long Island; Brian Schmidt bringing drinks to the beach at Madeline Island; ice cream in Cornucopia; Todd Carlson.



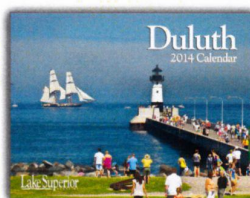
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# Mentor Duluth

For the third consecutive year, the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron hosted a group of kids from Mentor Duluth for a safety presentation, lunch and a harbor cruise based out of the Squadron Dock on Saturday, September 14.

Hosted by volunteers from the Squadron, this event always gets a great response and is one of our most important annual civic events. Teaming up with Mentor Duluth allows us to reach a segment of area youth who would not otherwise have access to this kind of instruction, so we are happy to host them every year.

Seventy percent of the fatal accidents involving boats involve individuals with no formal boating instruction and this statistic emphasizes the importance of starting this instruction early. The Duluth Sail & Power Squadron propels its mission by offering kids from Mentor Duluth an opportunity to navigate the Duluth-Superior Harbor and learn basic safety tips.

Interested Mentor Duluth "swabbies" gathered at the Squadron pavilion for a cookout followed by a PowerPoint presentation covering swimming and boating safety, rip currents, river currents, and spending time in and around water crafts. The young cadets then boarded the volunteers' vessels for an afternoon voyage.

There are over 200 kids on Mentor Duluth's waiting list so the organization tries to offer activities that will keep the kids interested until they can find mentor matches for them. This nautical event attracts a significant number of them, and it helps Mentor Duluth understand their interests, ultimately helping to make better matches for them. Mentor Duluth, located at Duluth's YMCA, assists



eligible youth with healthy development to become contributing members of society, matching youngsters with positive adult and student role models. Their website has information on how to become a mentor: [www.mentorduluth.org](http://www.mentorduluth.org)

Thanks to Commander Lance Olson, Executive Officer Jason Smitke, and Past Commander Dave Stokes for coordinating this event and offering their vessels and captain services for the cruise on the harbor.





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# Merit Marks

Attention All Members!

It is that time of year again when I ask, what have you done for your squadron this year? That's right, it's time to fill out a Merit Mark form for the 2013 year. The event chairperson, an Officer in the squadron or the Commander has tracked most of your time, but I need you to take the responsibility to make sure we have your information. We want to make sure you get credit for the wonderful job you have done for the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron and USPS this year. Any activity, meeting, errand, helping out the squadron in any way counts toward a Merit Mark.

Please look at the form, take five minutes right now and fill it out. It won't take long and then you won't forget about it. I need these forms back to me by November 1.

Please use the form to list your activities. You can always use another sheet of paper if the form is not enough room. Make sure to include the content of the activity, the number of meetings, the number of hours it took to complete an activity. Don't forget to put your name and certificate number on it. Remember the Merit Mark year goes from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. If you're not sure if an activity or event qualifies for a merit mark, write it down, we will make that decision. Remember, this is your only payment for your hard work.

Family members are eligible for a Merit Mark. Please make sure to include anyone that is a family member in your submission, so that they get credit for their time worked.

All of your Bridge this year thanks you for your time and efforts put forward this past year. THANK YOU! Now, start writing and mail, fax or email the form back soon!

All forms returned to me before the deadline will be put into a drawing for a special prize to be held at the next squadron event!

P/C Len Robinson  
Merit Mark Chairperson

P.S. You'll find a copy of the form on the next page.

Email: lrobinson@nwoutlet.com  
Mail: 77 Hideaway Lane  
Esko, MN 55733  
Fax: 715-392-1452

**All forms returned to me before the deadline (November 1) will be put into a drawing for a special prize to be held at the next squadron event!**

# Calendar

DATE	MEETING / EVENT	DATE	MEETING / EVENT
<b>2013</b>		<b>2014</b>	
Nov. 1-3	D-10 Fall Conference	Jan. 16	4th General Meeting
Nov. 21	3rd General Meeting	Feb. 20	Annual Meeting and Elections
Dec. 12	6th Executive Board Meeting	March 8	Change of Watch
Dec. 14	Christmas Party	March 9	Winter Dock Party



## **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, 2013 through December 31, 2013. 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  
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# Share Your Tall Ship Photos

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Send your tall ship photos to [dsps@lakesuperior.com](mailto:dsps@lakesuperior.com)



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## Note from the Editor

I sincerely hope the membership has enjoyed the efforts of their officers and volunteers over the past watch year. Although 2013 was what the crew of the *Purr-ecious Time* has dubbed the perfect storm for us personally, it was a very successful year for the squadron. I concur with Commander Olson's call to service as we continue to evolve and grow with fresh new leadership. Please don't sit on the fence; step up and make your mark on a deep-rooted organization with grand history; you won't regret it.

And speaking of history, your first opportunity to make an impact would be to assist P/C Len Robinson and me as we chair the District-10 2014 Rendezvous celebrating 100 years of the United States Power Squadron and 75 years of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron. This event will take place the weekend of July 20, 2014, based out of our squadron dock facility. As we prepare for the celebration, you can already purchase your new Anniversary Flag for your boat—see P/C Dave Carlson.

We are also blessed to have members Jeff and Toni Foster to help us celebrate our milestone in grand fashion aboard the Cutter *Sundew*. Many other surprises are in the works

and many hands are needed to make the event a success. Please contact us!

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the small navy of talent that kept *Purr-ecious Time* purring this season, despite several challenges. I had no idea so many things could go wrong on a well-maintained vessel within one summer. And of course, this happens during a year of renovations at our home—hence the perfect storm.

In closing, I hope everyone has appreciated the efforts to continue the proud tradition of the *Channel Chatter*. When the Bridge determined last year the publication would cease to exist since no one was coming forward to serve as editor and publisher, I stepped up to be your editor. We also gained a true gift when squadron members Paul and Cindy Hayden and the crew of *Lake Superior Magazine*

agreed to do our layout and publishing. We have such a great local treasure in *Lake Superior Magazine*. With the holiday season right around the corner, consider a gift subscription to support the publication that supports our squadron.

P/C Dave Stokes



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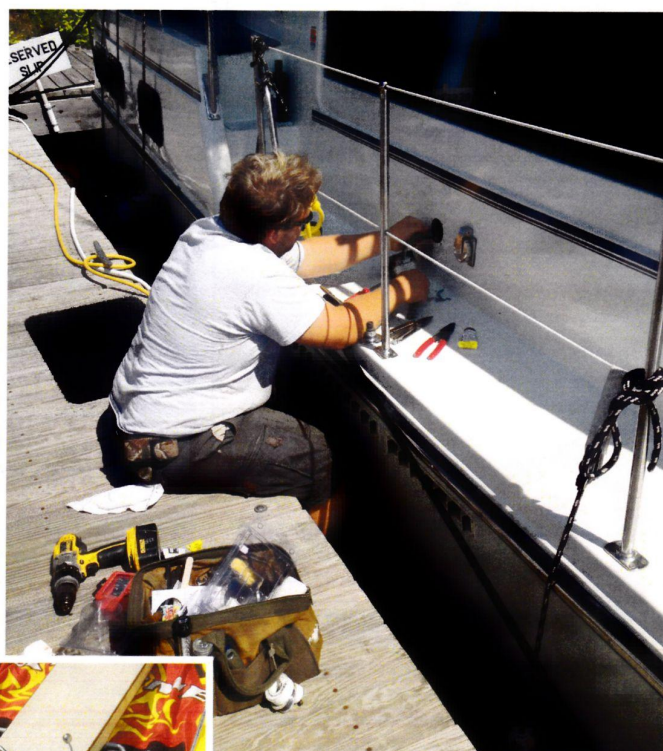


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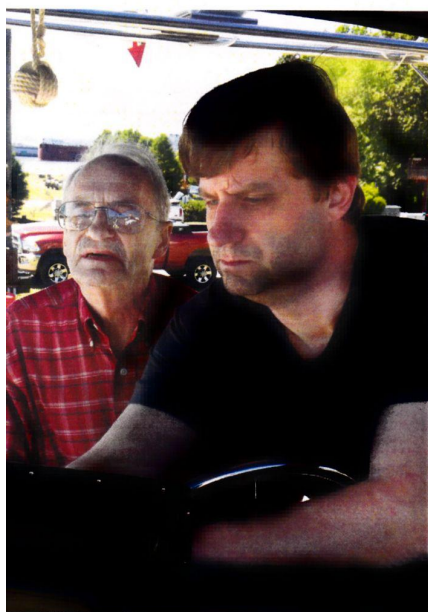
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Despite everything breaking down this season (see left and above), it was still a successful and enjoyable year. Highlights included Tanner's first Northern (below), caught off the bow of *Purr-ecious Time* at Madeline Island. Below, from left, Tom Ballou, chief engineer for *Purr-ecious Time*; and P/C John Harrison and son Jim aboard *Purr-ecious Time*.





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