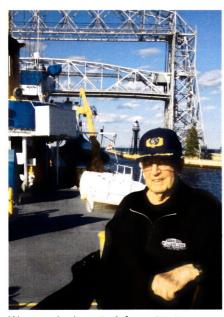
### Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

# **Channel Chatter**

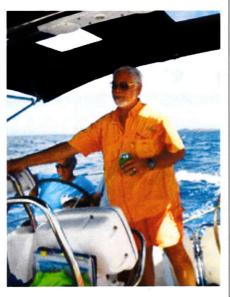
# United States Power Squadrons

# **Open Water, At Last**



Warm weather has arrived after a winter to remember. Inside (from top right): Bob Ouellette escaped from the cold with a sailing trip in the Virgin Islands (pg. 15), Tanner Stokes dodged icebergs in May (pg. 19), pup Josephine and members cleaned up the dock this spring (pg. 11), and on an ice-free June day, Dick Bibby sailed aboard Sundew for his 92nd birthday (join us on Sundew this July; see pg. 18).







### Volume 2014 Issue I

Spring 2014

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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,

Spring is here and most boats are in the water but my launch will be late this year. It's not because the boat is not ready but because I have too many other things going on. It's a flimsy excuse, because boating should take priority, but it's my excuse nonetheless.

Launch time always brings me memories of past launches. Probably the most memorable was the delivery and launch of my first "big boat." I had traveled to Florida over the winter in search of the perfect boat and had it shipped back to Duluth by truck. It was a 35' Hallberg Rassy sailboat named *Alacrity*. I had sailed very little in the past and never on a boat this big, but I had been an armchair sailor for years and was convinced that I wanted to be a real sailor and see the world so I took the plunge and here I was with the boat.

I had made arrangements to keep the boat at Barker's Island but had the boat delivered to Lakehead Boat Basin for various reasons and Joel Johnson was there to help me through the process. It was my first experience with a Travelift, but Joel was a pro and got the boat splashed and tied up to the dock. Then he shook my hand and congratulated me on the new boat and went on his way.

So there I was all by myself with a dilemma. I had never sailed this boat or even started the engine in Florida and now I needed to get it across the bay. It was an old boat, but it had a brand new shiny diesel engine and I just needed to figure out how to work it. I had never operated a diesel engine before, but I got it going and only later did I learn that the "choke" lever I had been messing with was actually the fuel shutoff. I made it safely across the bay since I knew all about the rules of the road from those armchair days and made a safe and gentle dock in my new slip.

Next it was time to introduce my new wife to the new boat. We had been together for a couple of years but only married a couple of months. She had always known about this sailing dream but was skeptical at best and thought it was only a dream until the boat showed up in Duluth.

So we motored out into the lake on a moderately calm day to try our first sail on the new boat. We raised the mainsail



and shut off the engine to see what would happen and sure enough – we were sailing. Since that seemed to go well, we raised the headsail and then we were really sailing.

Two years later we sailed under the lift bridge for the last time on that boat which was fully refit and renamed Freebird.

Ten years, 20,000 miles, two children, many beaches, many friends and many rum drinks later, I sold the boat in Thailand. There may or may not have been a tear shed, but only I will know.

Freebird is still sailing and I stay in communication with her new owner. This summer she will be crossing the Indian Ocean to South Africa and then on to Europe where she will have completed her circumnavigation of the globe. May all your boats have similar exciting lives whether close to home or far abroad.

Cheers,

Lance R. Olson, Cdr.
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# **Executive Officer's Report**

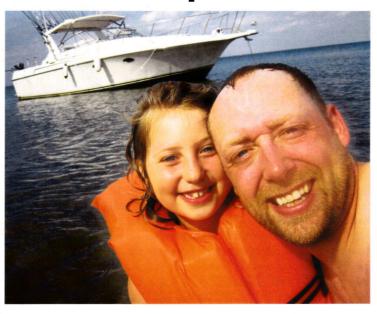
Greetings,

Spring has finally sprung here in Duluth, it may be the end of May but hey, I will take it. By now most of our boats are in and we are tying up details for this upcoming summer. For me, I will be taking my second voyage to Isle Royale with some fellow Power Squadron members via the Apostle Islands first. 2014 will mark another fantastic year on Lake Superior for the Duluth Sail & Power Squadron.

I get excited as I look back over the past couple of months, and look ahead to this upcoming summer. It's easy to see why, when you are surrounded by great members that are always willing to chip in and lend a helping hand. From all of the help provided at our Spring Dock Clean Up held by Paul Lind. The great donations and attendees at the Fitting Out Party, a well-attended Change of Watch and the upcoming Summer Rendezvous held in our own backyard, this year is going to be great!

I wanted to take a moment and give some thanks to Members that are making a difference this year in the Power Squadron by pitching in and helping out!

First and foremost, Shelly Micke, Paul Snider, Chad & Stacy Lowney, Chris Spokely & Niki Jean, Val Ouellette and the rest of the members that jumped at the Fitting Out Party! Paul Lind for keeping our dock up and running and getting it ready this spring.



I would also like to thank our current Commander and the rest of the folks serving and who have served our board for all of the input and support that you are always willing to share!

Last of all, thank you! For being active members in *your* Duluth, Sail & Power Squadron!

Lt/C Tom Linderholm Executive Officer

### **Educational Officer**

If you have the time to invest in the Squadron, please make yourself known. We're in need of an educational officer this year.

The educational officer coordinates Squadron courses and learning activities. You need not be an educator. Anyone can do this position. It's imperative that we fill this vital position, which is a national Squadron requirement.

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, for this or other positions, please make yourself known. The Squadron needs your help to keep the magic happening! It's your spirit and support that keeps fueling the fire.

If you are interested in serving on the executive committee as educational officer or filling other leadership positions, please contact P/C Todd Carlson at todd@carlson-lakeshore.com or 218-348-4733.

# **Administrative Officer's Report**

Greetings all,

I hope the brutal winter treated you well as possible and I hope you had time to take a vacation away from the frozen tundra of our north. I had the chance to hit Key West for I I glorious days and, man, was it nice! Water in its not-frozen form and boats in it. As we head into our summer season — I hope! — I just woke my boat up. She is dirty and in need of attention, but she fared the winter OK. I hope yours did too.

Thanks to all who attended Change of Watch and the Fitting Out Party. As administrative officer, the task falls on me for our events, and I'm up to the task! With my favorite right around the corner in Captain's Platter, I will be working with P/C Todd Carlson to help in the success of the fishing tourney. I encourage you to attend and bring a friend and show off our beautiful dock facility! Even if you don't fish, come. It's always fun! If you have any ideas on other events we can hold for fun times and to attract new members, please let me know.

Now, back to boating. I can't wait to splash my Windtalker, fire the engines and hear that sweet sound, hail the bridge for a lift and get out in the water. My family has another two-week vacation in the Apostle Islands again this year right after our D10 Summer Rendezvous and I can't wait to get back there. Also, I'm out of fish and need more.



Don't forget those vessel safety checks! Myself and the other examiners are here for you and are happy to give you the safety check and make sure your ship is ready.

Be safe and be well. Windtalker clear back to 16!

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

# Secretary's Report

Meet new officer Reed Byers:

Susan Leach and I joined the squadron four years ago. We retired here in 2008 after living in the Twin Cities for 25 years. I was originally from here. We enjoy exploring the lake, visits to Isle Royale, the Apostles and just hangin' near the water. We were lucky enough to go to the British Virgin Islands with Bob and Val Ouellette this winter for the trip of a lifetime. (See pg. 15.) We plan on fishing (not so much with Susan) and taking a trip to the Apostles in July or August.

It is clear taking a DSPS class at Central in January of 2008 here in Duluth has really changed our lives from both new passion and social standpoints.

Lt/C Reed Byers Secretary



# **Vessel Safety Checks**



The Squadron's Vessel Safety
Examiners gathered at Sand Point
Yacht Club this spring for a
mandatory class that all examiners
must take to stay qualified. This gives
our squadron 7 qualified examiners.
If you are interested in becoming an
examiner, or if you'd like to have
your boat checked, contact VSC
Chair Larry Anderson: 218-7297491, Ljande@cpinternet.com



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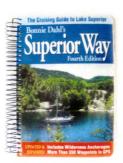
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# **Change of Watch**

At the annual Change of Watch, P/C Robert Stokes was recognized for his 50 years of service to the Squadron. Earlier in the year, he received his 50th Merit Mark.

Among the changes on the bridge, officers Tom Linderholm and Jason Smitke swapped positions. Tom is now executive officer; Jason is the administrative officer. Reed Byers took over as secretary.





At left, Bob Stokes receives honors from P/C Marie Coons and P/C/C John Alter for 50 years of service to the Duluth Sail & Power Squadron. Above: DSPS Cdr. Lance Olson and Bob. Below: Bob with family and friends.



# **DSPS Volunteers at River Quest**

The 22nd annual St. Louis River Quest drew a record 1,433 students over the course of four days to the waterfront this year. Divided into small groups, they participated in a total of 12 unique, hands-on learning stations covering topics that ranged from pollution prevention and stopping aquatic invaders to personal water safety and commercial shipping. In addition to six stations on the boat, an additional six were set up landside in Pioneer Hall at the DECC. Students switched venues halfway through their respective morning or afternoon session.

St. Louis River Quest is a community-based, volunteer organization founded in 1993 to provide area sixth-grade students with hands-on learning experiences that enhance their awareness and understanding of the interrelated commercial, industrial, recreational and environmental values of the Duluth-Superior Harbor, the estuary of the St. Louis River.

Since its inception, and including this year's participants, this outreach education program has served over 19,000

students in the Duluth-Superior area. This year, with the support of 40-plus companies and agencies, River Quest involved over 55 teachers, students from 14 area schools, plus homeschoolers and as many as 100 volunteers.

Volunteers from the Duluth Sail & Power Squadron taught students about the importance of life jackets, which should always be worn by recreational boaters on the water.

Students were encouraged afterward to submit essays or poems about their experiences as part of the event's Captain Ray Skelton River Quest Writing Contest, named in honor of one of the program's founders. Winners' names are added to traveling plaques to recognize both the student's writing abilities and the school's participation in River Quest. Contest winners in 2013 were Anna Chelseth (essay) from Ordean-East and Milly Timm (poetry) from Marshall School.

Participating teachers have seen what a huge impact River Quest has had on their students. Their feedback after last year's program included these remarks: "The kids love it!





River Quest organizers concur. "This is truly a collaborative community outreach education program," noted Leslee LeRoux, River Quest Board President. "It continues to grow and evolve each year. Most recently, learning station sponsors have been working directly with educators to align their resource materials with specific State Science and Social Studies Standards, which makes the entire experience a very effective teaching tool."

- Adele Yorde, Duluth Seaway Port Authority









# Captain's Platter Fishing Contest

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Where: Lake Superior and St. Louis River

Contest Headquarters: Duluth Sail and Power Squadron Dock, Allouez Bay

When: Saturday, June 14, 2014

Time: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person, kids 15 & under are free

Awards and Door Prizes at 5:00 pm

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each of the following four categories:

Walleye

**Lake Trout** 

King Salmon (Chinook)

Coho Salmon









After a winter that often seemed neverending, Squadron members pulled out their rakes, weedwackers, power washers and work gloves on Dock Clean Up Day in May, organized by co-Dockmaster Paul Lind. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped prepare the dock for another great season of boating.

### 12 Channel Chatter











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# **Fitting Out Party**







On May 2, the Squadron held its annual Fitting Out Party and Fundraiser at the Belgian Club in Superior.

Clockwise from top left: Guests enjoyed a prime rib dinner, prepared by the Squadron's own Tom Linderholm. Treasurer Paul Snider staffed the registration table. The silent auction was followed later in the evening by a rollicking live auction.





### **Calendar**

DATE MEETING / EVENT

**MEETING / EVENT** 

East/West Sailing Regatta

2014

June 14 June 21 July 18-20 July 19 Captain's Platter Fishing Contest Mentor Duluth Event #1 D10 Summer Rendezvous Executive Board Meeting 2014

DATE

Aug. TBD Aug. 29–Sept. 1 Sept. 18

g. 29–Sept. I Corn Roast pt. 18 General Meeting

Sept. 20 Mentor Duluth Event #2





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# Papayas Again?

### by Bob Ouellette

Winter.... Sleeping with no blankets.... Morning coffee with warm bare feet. ... Outdoors. ...

Yup, we wanted to do another charter. In 2013 we sailed from Grenada to Trinidad for Carnival; all on board were experienced sailors. This time we were looking for a more laid back trip. The obvious place in our minds is the Virgin Islands: plenty of anchorages, short distances and great sailing. We asked Reed and Susan if they would be interested and they barely hesitated. At Christmas I mentioned it to some old sailing friends now living in Holland, Michigan. I said we could use another couple, and they said if we were serious they wanted in on it.

Needless to say, we all spent the next couple months of cold Minnesota and Michigan winter weather planning and looking forward to our charter. While most Virgin Island charters operate out of the British Virgin Islands, I preferred starting in St. Thomas. Two years ago I had stopped at Frenchtown Marina in St. Thomas, and knew CYOA Charters operated out of there, so I was happy we could work everything out to fit our schedule. We found that we could save more than enough on airfare to charter an extra day by flying a day

The Boat: Hunter 45 Island Sister. The Crew: Three couples, Bob & Val, Reed & Susan, Rich & Jean.

### Day 0:Thursday

Minneapolis, an early shuttle ride to

the airport, -18° F, a wind chill of about -40. Six-plus hours later we stepped out into +84° F in Charlotte Amallie. Cab fares are established to make money for the cabs; while the fees are high, they apparently are set by statute, so we sucked up and arrived close to closing. Barbara at CYOA knew we would be late and was waiting to get us on board. We had opted for a first night of sleep aboard. I think it helps you get acclimated to the boat, and you will have questions that can be addressed during the checkout. Dinner was at the Hook, Line and Sinker restaurant at the base of the dock.

### Day I: Friday

After a short checkout sail with Rick from CYOA, we left Frenchtown Marina near Hassel Island and proceeded out of Charlotte Amalie





harbor under power and headed east past Dog Island. We then set sail up the west side of St. John Island, following it around to Francis Bay where we picked up a mooring. This turned out to be relatively quiet and a pleasant first night. Having to leave the Park Service mooring fee on a floating pay station was combined with a shore excursion to beach walk and swim. We then went back to the boat to grill a yellow snapper

from the Frenchtown fish market. What a delicious treat that was! Fresh air and sunshine made for an early bedtime.

### Day 2: Saturday

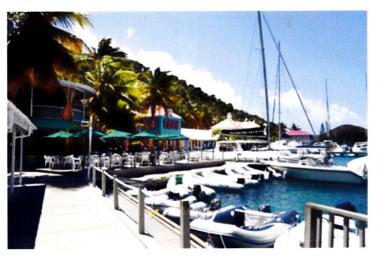
Breakfast on board - papaya and cereal - then we slipped the mooring and set sail for Great Harbor, Jost Van Dyke. Anticipating a busy anchorage, we arrived before noon and picked up a mooring. Since we were coming from the U.S. Virgin Islands, this is where we would clear customs. Thanks to CYOA I had made out the form ahead of time using the form provided and the sample in the vessel's information folder. Customs was painless and I was issued a permit that "Robert, Master of Island Sister, and his gallant crew of five were free to cruise the BVI."

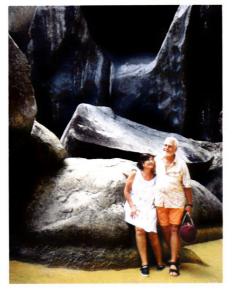
So the gallant crew pressed on down Jost Van Dykes Main Street fronting the beach, stopping at Ali Baba's for refreshments. We returned to the boat for some afternoon relaxation and planned our evening foray to Foxy's for the buffet. The sun goes down early, and we found we did, too.

#### Day 3: Sunday

Fresh papaya and cereal caused one crew member to complain, "Papayas again?"

A quick trip ashore to pick up a few





items at the little grocery and we were off to snorkel at the south side of Sandy Cay. Anchoring in 12 feet of water we dinghied ashore and sorted our mix of snorkeling gear. CYOA provides all you need, but some brought their own mask and snorkel. This is an idyllic spot that looks like the perfect desert island. Sandwiches were done back on board as we set out for Road Town on Tortola. The anchor went down about 16:00 near Fort Burt. There was a bakery my wife and I remembered from 22 years ago, so we went to look for it. We were sure we found it, only to discover it's now an oriental restaurant. Oh well, no cucumber bread this time. Dinner grilled on board. Hot dogs this time.

#### Day 4: Monday

By now we were into a comfortable routine, so after 10 hours in our bunks we awoke to the challenge of raising the anchor by going to the bow and stepping on the windlass switch. Off to Spanish Harbor on Virgin Gorda. The marina there is a great spot to stop while visiting the Bath's and since we developed a plumbing problem, it would make getting it

repaired convenient for everyone.

Once repairs were arraigned and a few items were purchased at the grocery store, we left for the Bath's. Our taxi driver "Blue" dropped us off and promised to pick us up later that afternoon. We had strong surf running, so instead of snorkeling we headed into the "caves." A few reluctant members of our group soon became enthusiastic after a couple of tight passages opened up into cathedral-like spaces. It's an amazing sight. Opting for the easier trail through the cactus back to the open-air bar at the entrance to the park left us enough time for some "punch" before meeting Blue. Polo and Albert had the boat all AI when we returned, but it was late enough we decided to overnight at Spanish Town. That meant showers ashore and dinner at the Bath and Turtle restaurant.

### Day 5: Tuesday

Morning showers, coffee at the store, some last-minute treats and then the sun shone. We pulled over to the fuel dock to top off and settle up. It was then set sail for Marina Cay. A fast broad reach and soon we picked up a mooring near Pussers Landing and went ashore for lunch and snorkeling from the beach a few feet from our table.

Our goal was Bitter End for the night.

It was a beat past Great Dog, then a close reach up to Saddle Bay, where we furled sails and powered around to the North Channel between Mosquito Island and Prickly Pear Island. We found a mooring off Saba Island by the Eastern channel entrance. We grilled up the rest of our Snapper, yum. A call on the VHF brought us ashore on the Bitter End Yacht Club launch. We were craving dessert, but

found they were doing a large buffet. However, after a consultation among staff, they said we could do just the dessert buffet for \$8.63 each. Wonderful!

#### Day 6: Wednesday

Today we knew we should have done a two-week charter(maybe a month?).



There wasn't enough time to see everything on our list. So after clearing Mosquito Island we set sail for Norman Island and the caves off of Treasure Point. It was a fast sail. We snorkeled off the boat after picking up a mooring, a refreshing stop. Crew voted to bypass the busier Bight and Willy T for a much quieter Benures

Bay on the North side of Norman Island. We were easily able to anchor here.

#### Day 7:Thursday

Timing to return meant we would have to clear customs in St. John today, but we made a last BVI stop at Sopers Hole. It was busy, but we picked up a mooring just as another boat was leaving. Another grocery store stop to get milk and ice. Toured the

harbor by dinghy, lunched on the boat and set sail for Caneel Bay. There is little room in Cruz Bay so after picking up a mooring in Caneel Bay we took the dinghy around to customs. We managed to get in just ahead of a large group. Customs was pleasantly surprised that we had all the paperwork filled out ahead of



Tom Henderson



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time, thanks again to CYOA's foresight in supplying forms and a sample with pertinent vessel information and highlighted areas we needed to fill in. The form is also for freighters so has quite a few lines that do not apply to pleasure craft. Ice cream and an early dinner were enjoyed while watching the ferry and waterfront activity from the High Tide Seafood Grill.



Day 8: Friday

Our last full day. Again we set sail after slipping the mooring and headed toward St. Thomas Harbor. After some discussion we decided to make a stop at Turtle Cove at Little Buck Island near St. Thomas. This is popular with the day-trip boats that bring people out off the Cruise ships. There were several "pirate ships" heading back as we approached, so for a while we had

the bay to ourselves. There were plenty of turtles here, and we were visited by a school of dolphins as we prepared to snorkel. This unplanned side trip turned out to be a great hit.

We knew we had to return the boat with full fuel tanks so we made a stop at Yacht Haven. We got excellent service even though our 13 gallons was a pittance compared to the 1,100

gallons going into one of the super yachts they cater to. We toured the anchorage on our way to Honeymoon Bay on Water Island, where we would anchor for our last night aboard.

Day 9: Saturday

It was our first cloudy morning, so it matched our mood as we motored back to Frenchtown Marina, CYOA's home. A call to Nancy alerted them and she instructed

us to pick up a mooring so they could do a sail inspection before bringing us to the dock. It went well, quick and efficient. Since we had plenty of time to catch our flight, we had time for showers and packing. Nancy and I went over the final paperwork and inspection; they made it very easy. It was hard to believe we would be back in Minnesota snow and winter that evening.

# **An Anniversary Rendezvous**

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of DSPS and our own 75th anniversary at the District 10 Summer Rendezvous, hosted by the Duluth Sail & Power Squadron at our dock facility in Superior, Wisconsin.

### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

#### Friday, July 18

- Registration 2 p.m. till 7 p.m.
- Picnic Dinner served from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Short program at 7 p.m. at Lake Superior Marine Museum in Canal Park to start us off, then tour on your own until 9 p.m., transportation on your own.
- Bonfire and music at the Squadron dock during the evening.

### Saturday, July 19

Registration 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.



- Pancake Breakfast with all the fixings, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Great Lakes Aquarium tours, 11 a.m. (cost). See the Lake Superior Shipwreck exhibit.
- Harbor tour on board the retired Coast Guard Cutter Sundew – board at the Sundew dock in Duluth (near the aquarium), depart at 2

p.m., arriving back at the dock around 4:30 p.m. Transportation on your own for both the aquarium and *Sundew* tours.

- Traditional Fish Boil Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at our dock.
- Entertainment and bonfire and fun during the rest of the evening.

### Sunday, July 20

- Continental breakfast 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Maybe a Bloody Mary dingy run?
- Then start your vacations!







# **Note from** the Editor

After thirty below temperatures and snow banks up to the roof line, it sure is nice to finally see open water and boats afloat again. Not many other places in the world can you see temperatures swing nearly 150 degrees. The Northland is truly an amazing place.

This spring has been one for the record books with late ice on the Big Lake. Our crew has had a lot of fun floating among the icebergs aboard Whaler 15 & Purr-Ecious Time.

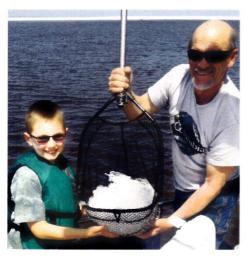
This past Memorial Day weekend was better than most days in July with temperatures in the 80s and a buzzing Squadron Dock. More than a dozen boats and several RVs made it the best start to a new boating season in decades!

This is very appropriate considering it's our 75th anniversary year and the 100th anniversary of USPS. Your officers and members have been hard at work preparing for the many events planned for this special year.

Make sure you mark your calendar for the District 10 Summer Rendezvous here in Duluth on July 18-20; take time to support and enjoy your Squadron during this historic summer.

Smooth Sailing!

The crew of Purr-Ecious Time, P/C Dave, Admiral Kristi, 1st Mate Tanner & Aerial Bridge the Ship's Cat





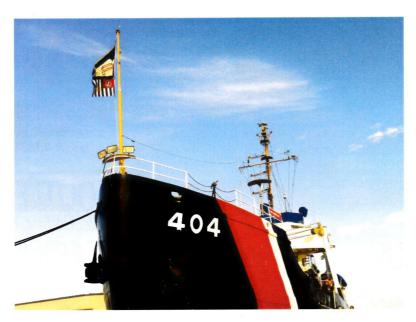
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It's Almost Here!

D10 Rendezvous Weekend, July 18-20

Join us for a fish boil, bonfire, entertainment, a harbor tour aboard *Sundew* proudly flying the DSPS burgee and ensign, and much more. See pg. 18 for details.