

Door County Sail & Power Squadron Commander's Report

It is again a real pleasure to report on the activities of DCS&PS (AKA) "The Little Squadron That Could".

We are most proud of our Education Department with Lt/C Bob DeNoto, JN as our SEO. We graduated 12 members in our April Cruise Planning class. We graduated 7 members from our May Instructor Development class. We had one member pass JN. We had a total of 49 people passing our 2 Boat Smart classes. That is almost one graduate per member! We currently have 50 members. We found we had great success with having a summer session of Boat Smart which concluded in August. For the first time in a very long time, we have an entry in the Teaching Aids. We have Seamanship starting in September and we are expecting to have a very large Weather Class starting in late fall. One of the instructors is having hip replacement surgery in September, so we are waiting for him to get back on his two feet. We plan to have an N class starting in January 2007 with 2 members taking it. We have two members who have completed 2/3 of the JN class. As you can see Education has become a big part of our Squadron, so it should come as no surprise to anyone that we will be awarded the prized Prince Henry Award tonight and also the Squadron Excellence in Education. We can't help but be very proud of our Squadron!

After many years as Editor of the Scuttlebutt, Dave Biddick, has turned the reins over to a new and very capable editor, Lt. Paula Cashin, S. She is doing a fantastic job and has brought us into the 21st century by making newsletter available on line and only making hard copies and mailing to those without computers. This has saved us a great deal of money and the editor time. We are so grateful for the professional job she is doing for us.

We also are having Big Fun! We had our annual picnic at a new spot this year, which turned out to be better than ever. Fortunately the high winds and tornado warnings waited until after we ate! This gave R/C Alan Wentworth, SN an opportunity to hold a very impromptu weather class. We followed his suggestion that we all get the heck out of here!

We took part in the Tall Ships Festival, which was held in Green Bay. Some of us were assigned jobs at port and some just watched from their boats. All in all it was great to see and be even a little part of the Tall Ships Festival.

We again had our booth at the Wooden Boat Show at the Door County Maritime Museum in August. We also sponsored a marine fire fighting demonstration each day of the show. It was a good opportunity for the attendees to practice putting out fires. We were glad to be able to provide this service.

We held our 4th Annual Rendezvous to Menominee, MI. We were so happy to have so many members of Green Bay Squadron join us for the festivities. Unfortunately rough seas on Saturday kept Cdr Dan Baker from joining us. We had a week-end of good food and good times with new and old friends.

On 9 September we did something new. We had a Pig Roast. We had 36 people in attendance and no one went home hungry. We had 5 prospective members there. It was a great success in every way.

We have done more VSC's than last year so far, and we have added one new examiner with three more in the pipeline. We held a VSC Blitz at one of the marinas and it was so successful that there were more boats than the examiners could examine in one day. We look forward to doing this in the future with more people.

With our Co-Op Charting Chair Dave Biddick, we continue to be a force to be reckoned with in Co-Op Charting. If you check the listing on the Web we occasionally come up as number one in the nation. This very probably will not hold, but it's fun while it lasts.

We have a new face on our Bridge who has proved to be an excellent addition. Our Treasurer, Lt/C Cynthia Weis P. She keeps us all on the ball. She always knows who has paid their dues and how much money we have and who wants to spend it. And, we have learned to fill our her request for payment form if we expect to get reimbursed.

We were pleased to meet with the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary this summer and have agreed to combine our efforts to serve the public in both Boating Safety Classes and Vessel Safety Checks. In the future our two organizations will coordinate publicity efforts and educational offerings to best serve the boating community.

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I submit this report as Commander of this very fine Squadron.

Cdr Carole L. Biddick, AP
Door County Sail & Power Squadron