

# ON THE HORIZON

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DUNDALK SAIL & POWER SQUADRON • CHARTERED 11 SEPTEMBER 1961  
Volume 45 • Number 2

March 2006



## Gearing up for Spring



### Dundalk's Annual Meeting Kicks Off Big Two Weeks

A new bridge and other officers will be elected at Dundalk's annual meeting on March 15. The squadron's nominating committee has come up with the following slate:

For Commander:	Lt/C Bernie Karpers, N
For Executive Officer:	Lt/C John Hall, AP
For Administrative Officer:	Lt/C Tracey Stuenes, P
For Squadron Education Officer:	Lt/C Walter Neese, SN
For Treasurer:	Lt/C Dick Bussey, P
For Secretary	Lt Stuart Newborn
For Asst. SEO	P/Lt/C Rolf Stuenes, JN
For Asst. Treasurer	Lt Michael R. Dulany, P
For Asst. Secretary	Lt Joanne Day, SN

Additional nominations for the above positions will be accepted from the floor but the rules require anyone nominated to be present.

In addition, the committee has nominating the following people to serve on the Executive Committee:

P/C Lois Nehmer, SN  
Dianne Newborn  
1/Lt Joanne Day, SN  
Lt David Seidenman, AP  
P/Lt/C Bobby Blaker, AP  
P/Lt/C Rolf Stuenes, JN

Four additional Executive Committee slots will be filled through floor nominations and many other committee positions will be filled.

The newly elected officers will be installed at the Change of Watch on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Sparrows Point Country Club. The following weekend marks the USPS District 5 Spring Council in Ocean City where the new officers will get trained for their positions. On Friday evening of the conference, Dundalk's new commander, whomever that should turn out to be, will host a hospitality suite for the other squadrons. All Dundalk members and their guests are encouraged to attend all of these events. See the calendar for details.

## COMMANDER

Cdr Kenneth H. Finck, P

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C John Hall, AP

## EDITING

P/C Rick Boardman, AP

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Bernard S. Karpers, N

## SECRETARY

Lt/C Tracey C. Stuenes, P

## GRAPHICS

Lt Brande Neese, S

## EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

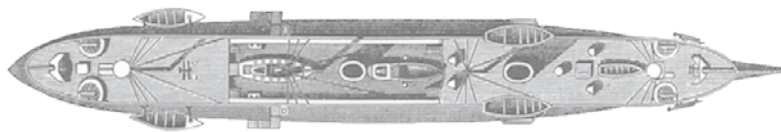
P/C Walter K. Neese, N

## TREASURER

Richard D. Bussey, P

Kindly submit articles to Rick by the 5th of every month via mail, email or fax. Thank you.

# Marine Survey--Who Ya Gonna Call?



When buying a boat, insuring it or re-insuring it we are usually required by the bank or insurance company to get a marine survey done. The marine surveyors are the experts, so how can we weekenders know it they're doing a good job. Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron members got some tips from a seasoned rveyor at the January general meeting. Capt. Steve Heiger gave offered a rundown on things to check the checker on.

First you have to find a surveyor and Capt. Heiger suggested that word of mouth from other satisfied customers is the best way. You also can find a list of qualified people through the National Association of Marine Surveyors ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.nams-cms.org"](http://www.nams-cms.org) www.nams-cms.org). Capt. Heiger recommends that the surveyor be a member of the American Boat and Yacht Council. Nobody wants the surveyor to find problems but it is in everybody's interest to have any problems uncovered.

The surveyor should perform a full structural check of the boat both above and below decks. This can't be done with the boat in the water. A moisture meter should be used and many hull soundings should be made to check for fiberglass decay. Every system in the

boat should be checked for failure, maintenance needs or replacement recommendation. Of course a special emphasis is placed on the engine. During the test run, the surveyor should probably be down in the engine room a good bit of the time taking measurements with his own instruments, not the ones on the vessel.

It's a good a idea to find out up front not only how soon the surveyor will take to perform the inspection but also how long it will take to issue the final report. No buying or selling or insuring can happen until he turns it in. In addition to writing up the information required by the institution, a good surveyor will also give the owner or potential owner tips as to special maintenance needs, fixes that may enhance the enjoyment of the boat and other invaluable bits of information. In a short, a marine survey is good thing!

Capt. Heiger is a USCG certified Captain with a 50 Ton Masters License, Near Coastal and, since 1997 has been the owner and founder of Satisfaction Marine Services, Inc. He can be reached through his web site, [HYPERLINK "http://www.satmarine.com"](http://www.satmarine.com) www.satmarine.com, or at 410-978-2951.

# COMMANDER CDR KENNETH H. FINCK, P



## Bittersweet

**My time has about come to a close. I can hear the Mickey Mouse Club singing the song in the back ground, as I say good bye to the membership as I write this last column as the Great Dundalk Sail and Power Squadron's Commander. "Now it's time to say goodbye to all our company, M-I-C - see you real soon - K-E-Y- why? Because we love you! M-O-U-S-E". And then the show would sign off til another day. But for me, this will be the end of another page in my book.**

I know that a lot of you have heard me count down the number of squadron meetings til I get my green and white hat. But, taking the grand view, I will miss this position. And truly I will miss the head seat at the executive meeting the most. The executive meeting is where the squadron's real work gets done. It is where the plans are made and put into action.

To me it is like a stagecoach in the old west. When I was the Admin Officer, my job was to keep the inside of the coach in good condition and control what happens within the coach. As XO, my new job was then to keep all outside matters in order and to ensure the beauty of the operation as seen by other people. But being the commander, well, that's the best job of all! During the executive meetings it is like sitting on top of the coach, having the reins in your hand and controlling the team of horses, aiming them where to go. Oh, sure, there are a few horses that come from behind the coach and try to keep up with the mighty pack in

front, but they run with the coach and get there just the same.

The sweet part is, like so many other great commanders before me, I have done it! And now I am almost a past commander, looking forward to getting my green and white hat, being one of the special few. Isn't it so, Brooks?

Believe me, if you ever get the chance to get on the bridge, take it. Life is too short. Live it to its fullest. The army once had a saying, "Be all you can be!" And believe me, you don't know what you can do if you don't try. There are merit marks out there waiting to say thank you for helping the squadron. Did you get one last year? I would have loved to have been overworked this year typing up requests for marks for everyone in our squadron. As it was I only did 50 merit marks and, thanks to Al Zuk, all but one were sent forward. You do know you have to do more than sit on a chair to get a merit mark, don't you? I hope so.

So now I leave the chair with the best view in the house. I would like to say thanks to all the members and family who worked so very hard to keep our squadron running right during the past year. There is no question in my mind that our new commander is more than ready for the job. I know you will give him the support you gave me.

Being the commander has been one of the highlights of my life. Everyone really should try it once. Think about it. So farewell and adieu. May you always have calm seas and a following wind. Thank you so very much.



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER LT/C BERNARD S. KARPERS, N

It started with a trickle, but now it is a full blown flood. Yes the Spring season for the Dundalk Sail and Power Squadron is in high gear.

The Executive Department, all of it, is busy and involved with the up coming District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, Maryland from March 30 to April 2, 2006 at the Princess Royale Hotel.

This year we will present our Squadron in every respect. From the younger to the older members. Our theme is Top Gun School modeled after the Harry Potter series. Our youngsters, supervised by Connie Barry, JoAnne Day and Dale Brusse, are Evan Boardman, Eric, Michelle and Brian Hall. They will be the students roaming the hotel to entice attendees to our Hospitality Room located at pier 22/7. There they will learn the secrets of the Navigation Contest, under the faculty of Top Gun School. They are Professors, Nehmer, Hall and Barry. The students will see the prisoner of Dundalk, the Navigation Contest Trophy, displayed before the Deep Woods, guarded by Roy and Tracey Stuenes. If the attendees make it through the school, they will receive a diploma and attend their graduation party, catered by Read Van Zile with assistance from the rest of the Squadron. The emphasis of this presentation is Education with integration into District boating activity. Yes Dundalk will do what Cdr Richard Nitschke, SN challenge us to last year. We will put the boat back into boating. All of the boats, sail or power.

On Saturday morning your Squadron Bridge will be presenting the Southbound Cruise to District 5. Rumor has it that the National Commander will be on this cruise. It would be great for Dundalk to make a big show at this event, which will take us to the District 5 Summer rendezvous. We will also make a presentation at the membership conference.

If this were not enough your Bridge is planning a lengthy coastal navigation trip. We expect to depart from the Galveston Texas area about the mid part of the first week in April, just 2 days after we return from Ocean City. Our goal is to arrive in the Chesapeake about 2 to 3 weeks later. We will keep you informed of our progress. Someone from the Bridge will be here to chair the April membership meeting. Then he probably will go down the bay looking for large rock fish and rendezvous with that boat coming in from

Galveston. All of this before the Volvo Ocean Race returns to the Chesapeake.

With this much activity we will enter the spring season full bore.

Yet the committees of the Executive Department continue to make plans in this transition period. Our VSC people are active inspecting boats in Texas and have two requests for vessel inspection in March 2006. Your membership committee has been active with a proposal to the Marine Trade Association of Baltimore County to teach the new boat owners our Basic Boating Course. This plan was endorsed, and we are presenting it to District 5 for consideration. This proposal has already caught the eye of the National Commander. This month we have two new members: Mrs Sue Bussey and Mr. Lawrence V. Hardesty, Sr. They have been admitted

as new members. Your Safety Committee is planning a big event for safe boating week end. Liason Committee is happy to report that the trophy Rock Fish season will start on 15 April with creel size expected to be 33 inches. With all of this going on Lt David Seidenman is busy reporting to all of the nautical newspapers the activity in your Squadron.

I want to thank P/C Ray Schiff for his work as a boating instructor and recruiter extraordinary for the Squadron. He has attracted many new members to our Squadron this year. Thank you Ray for your devotion and attention to membership.

A great deal of effort has been put forth by our retiring Commander Kenneth H. W. Finck, P. He has lead the Bridge and the Squadron to a better state of organization and function. Morale and interest in Squadron activity is high. He has worked with all departments of the Bridge and gently encouraged us to new accomplishments. Thank you Cdr Finck for your leadership and help with the Squadron this year.

This will be my last message to you as Executive Officer. I wish to thank all members of the Bridge, Executive Committee, Squadron Committees and members for their help during this last year. See you at the Change of Watch.

Yes the Spring  
season for the  
Dundalk  
Sail & Power  
Squadron is in  
high gear.

# TREASURER Lt/C Dick Bussey, P

## DUES RENEWAL

That time of year is fast approaching, dues renewal. I would like everyone to make every effort to pay their dues on time this year. Last year I

had to send out quite a few second notices and we also had to reinstate several members due to nonpayment. The time and expense of mailing out the second notices takes a bite out of our budget. At this time we already know that our National dues has been increased to \$31.80. We have no control over that. But we do have control over our spending habits. By paying your dues on time eliminates the expense of another mailing. So please be prompt this year. I will be meeting with the budget committee soon to see if we can hold our dues to the \$20.00 that it has been for years. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Recently, the Auditing Committee paid me a visit and the books were audited.. Their report should be forthcoming. There are some points that need attention according to the committee.

1. The voucher system must be adhered to. There are too many receipts being handed in without voucher approval. Budgeted items need no approval.
2. Accounting in the area of social affairs needs improvement. When you are the chair of an affair your report should include a complete accounting of the numbers attending and charges along with receipts.

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# EDUCATION OFFICER P/C WALTER K. NEESE, N

A basic course is being instructed by P/Lt/C Rolf Stuenes, JN, with P/C Lois Nehmer assisting. Due to complete on 03 April.

P/Lt/C Ray Schiff, P will launch a new basic course on Tuesday 14 March at Anchorage Marina. And Rolf's next GPS course will be Thursday 23 March at Anchorage Marina.

Three member courses are to be launched in March, with dates as follows (they have shifted a bit):

Seamanship	Tues 07 Mar 06	St.John's Lutheran	R.Van Zile
Advanced Piloting	Tue 21 Mar 06	Maryland Presbyterian	S. Broadbent
Engine Maintenance	Thu 20 Apr 06	Maryland Presbyterian	F. Schwing

Fred Schwing's telephone number is omitted from the roster, so he asked me to list it here in case anyone has questions. 410-561-1491.

Max Robinson has stepped up to instruct Marine Electronics, and we plan to schedule that in the fall. We are still working on Weather and Instructor Development; will schedule as soon as practical.

Still ongoing from last fall are classes in Junior Navigation and Navigation.

# SAFETY CORNER

## LT. ROY STUENES



Operating a vessel at night isn't easy, but what an exhilarating challenge — if you know what to watch.

### Lights

Your lights probably worked at the time of your last Vessel Safety Check, but when is the last time they were checked? When cruising in daylight you rarely, if ever, turn them on. Your bow lights especially take a lot of abuse, and they're likely to be the first ones to malfunction. Carefully check bow, stern and all-around lights before a nighttime cruise. You need to be able to see the lights of other boats and not allow red/green color blindness to cause confusion about their course. If you see a red light off your starboard bow and it seems to stay in one position rather than pass in front of you, chances are very good that you're headed for a collision. In an anchorage, a vessel is required to display only a single white anchor light. I've seen some with a flashlight tied to an oar. Be very careful around anchorage areas.

Then there are fixed navigation aids in and around the waterway. Travel toward Baltimore City and you'll see thousands of lights. You'll need to pick one to mark your course or destination. I was navigating in a sailboat race one night from the belowdecks navigator's station. I kept asking the helmsman if he could see the turn mark — until he hit the buoy, claiming he couldn't pick it out against the background of so many lights on shore. Learn more about navigation aids at [navcen.uscg.gov](http://navcen.uscg.gov).

Personally I like to have a seachlight at least two million candle power, and a back up search light. I feel very lost in open water without a searchlight. Crab pots can hide very well at night. Bulbs always blow out at the worst time. A flashlight, though, is much more suitable for reading your charts.

### Speed

Would you rather run over a log at 35 mph or at 10 mph? Adjust your speed to match the visibility. If you can make out a crab pot at 50 yards, make sure you can stop your boat in less than that distance — far less.

### Distractions

A young friend of mine took his girlfriend out on the bay one night. Let's just say he was multi-tasking and failed to notice an anchored boat until he hit it. If you captain a boat at night, concentrate on a safe route for you and your guests. You'll never have a more challenging designated driver job. Also, keep white lighting, which can be distracting, to a minimum. Use red or blue lights at the helm when possible.

### Don't Cut Corners

Make sure you use the channels, not the shortcuts. Use your chart or chart plotter, not your memory. In fact, use every helpful tool at your disposal (radar, GPS, night-vision glasses, depth sounder or following reliable vessels you know are "going your way") to get from point A to point B safely.

### Prudence

Use common sense when running your boat at night. Apply the cause-and-effect rule, "If I do A, then B or C might happen." Also, make sure your guests realize how serious being out on the water at night can really be. Don't let the party animal take over, whether it's you or someone else.

*KEEP IT SAFE!*

# ADMINISTRATOR LT/C JOHN HALL, AP

If you haven't heard we're buying a new boat. Well an old boat really but new to us. The boat is located in Freeport Texas. That's about 45 miles farther south down the Texas Gulf Coast from Galveston. You didn't expect Top Gun Cruisers to buy a boat close to home did you?

The surveys came back ok. There were some things that we didn't spot when we were down there the first time and the engines need a little work. We're going ahead with the purchase! This new boat is a 44 foot Striker Sport Fishing boat. It is built to go battle big game fish in blue water offshore so it may be able to hold up to 3 kids on the Chesapeake. We couldn't decide on a name but we kept coming back to the fact that this boat is a true sportfishing battlewagon. So we have decided to call her Battlewagon. The next thing we need to do is complete the paperwork. As I write this I am awaiting the final papers for signature and then I guess we'll have to cough up more money too. Assuming this all goes through as planned we will still be on a tight schedule with Kirby marina in Freeport Texas to get all the work done. Also the engines need new oil & coolant and a few parts.

Everyone is anxious to get started bringing the boat back. My kids have setup a whiteboard in the kitchen with the number of days left until we leave for Texas.

Here is the tentative schedule.

Wed April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Arrive in Freeport.
Thur-Fri April 6 <sup>th</sup> or 7 <sup>th</sup>	Move boat to Port Arthur, TX
Sat April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Venice LA (This is the end of the Mississippi River)
Sun April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Panama City, FL
Mon April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tampa, FL continuing to Sarasota or Ft Meyers
Tues April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Through the Okeechobee waterway to Stuart, FL
Wed April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jacksonville, FL
Thurs April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Charleston, SC
Friday April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Morehead City, NC
Saturday April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Roanoke Island
Sunday April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Cape Charles or further north on the Chesapeake
Monday April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Home!

That is our best guess at this point. This period coincides with the kid's spring break. If we don't make it home in time we will leave the boat at a good marina and drive home for the week. If we don't make it at all you'll have to figure out who's next in line for Commander since your Commander, Exec, and Admin Officer may all be on the boat at the same time. We will probably hit some weather delays but we may make them up with an overnight offshore run or two. To speed things along we will be bringing a chase vehicle. Our "Land Yacht" van will follow the boat and help with shopping, supplies and crew relief.

We also should be able to win a couple of squadron awards on this cruise. We will probably find some way to win the busted shamrock in 2500 miles. The crew comforter award is normally given to the crew with the meanest captain on the commanders cruise but the commander will be along on this cruise. Dundalk will definitely be the "Squadron That Cruises" for this year. The N course will be taught on this trip. Hopefully we won't need to use the emergency navigation chapter!

# CALENDAR 2006

## **Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**This month's general meeting** is also our annual meeting during which we vote in a new bridge. That's right, new commander, new everything. Same place, same time Boulevard Diner @ Merritt and Wise Aves., 1830 for dinner, 2000 for meeting.

## **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron Change of Watch**

See the story and sign-up sheet elsewhere in this issue

## **Weekend of March 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **USPS District 5 Spring Conference.**

If you only come to one District event please make it this one in Ocean City. You can help our new commander win the award for best hospitality suite. The theme is Harry Potter. See the form in this issue.

## **Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **General Meeting**

## **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **General Meeting**

## **Weekend of May 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Safety Weekend**

in conjunction with  
**Safe Boating Week.**

Help Dundalk provided training, vessel safety checks and other services to the boating public at Inner Haror East Marino. This event also serves as our kickoff cruise, so bring your vessel if you like.

## **Weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Raft-out in Still Pond.**

Lot's of boating fun.

## **Weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Practice Navigation Contest.**

Don't miss this tune up for the big event next month. Many crew members needed so please volunteer.

## **July 1 - 4**

We plan to have **raft-outs** at least three of four nights to view the fireworks close up in Middle River, Rock Hall and the Inner Harbor. Join us for one if not all three.

## **July 13 - 21**

Dundalk is hosting the **District 5 Southbound Cruise** to Cape Charles. See the story and form elsewhere.

## **Weekend of July 21**

The highlight of the **District 5 Summer Council** in Cape Charles is the navigation contest. Dundalk has won it three years in a row. Dare we go for a fourth? You're darn right!

## **July 23 - 29**

### **The Top Gun Cruise**

this year once again uses Summer Council as a starting point. From Cape Charles we proceed out to the Atlantic and move north to Rudee Inlet, Ocean City and Cape May/Wildwood.

## **August 19 - 25**

### **The Commander's Cruise**

this year takes us up the Patuxent River and then over to Rock Hall for the Crab Feast.

## **August 25**

### **Crab Feast at Rock Hall.**

Don't miss Dundalk's most popular event.