

The Telegraph

Volume 1, Number 2

Spring 1996

The Telegraph

A regional newsletter
published by
the Northeast Region
Boy Scouts of America

Bruce Chr. Johnson
NE Regional Commodore
Robert Legg
NE Regional Exploring
Executive



William R. James
Editor
Robert J. Sirhal
Associate Editor
Sallie Sirhal
Design & Production

If you have a question or comment about what you read in this Newsletter or something related to Sea Scouting, we'd like to hear from you. Please cast us a line at the address listed below.

Deadline

Summer 1996 issue

June 1, 1996

Send news of events, people, or story ideas to:

The Telegraph
c/o Bill James
425 Wayne Ave.,
Pitman, NJ 08071
Tel. 609-589-3088

Regional Commodore's Report ★ ★ ★ Bruce Chr. Johnson

National Sea Exploring Committee Meeting

The National Sea Exploring Committee recently met on 9-10 February 96 in Seattle, Washington. This committee, comprised of Sea Scouting leaders from throughout the U.S., meets annually to report on events of the past year, plans for the coming year, and to set policy and develop materials to improve and expand the Sea Scouting program. Currently, I am Northeast Region's only member of the Committee.

Friday evening was largely devoted to meeting with leaders from the Western Region Area 1 (essentially the state of Washington). While many of the Pacific Northwestern Sea Scouters' concerns echo those heard around Northeast Region, some concerns (such as the high cost of operating big boats over 80 feet LOA) are pretty uncommon around the Northeast. The following is a very brief summary of decisions/ actions/ announcements made at the national meeting:



Quartermaster Award Medal

The Quartermaster Award medal is about to be re-struck with much nicer dies than those used over the last few years. It, along with a miniature lapel pin and a mother's charm, will be produced in sterling silver and will be given to all future Quartermasters at the expense of the National Committee. Quartermasters who would like to purchase replacement medals, lapel pins, or mother's charms will be able to do so by mid-June from the national Eagle Scout Service. Only

Editor's Log Skipper Bill James

Shiver my timbers! This winter is one for the log book. Polar air blasting the North East Region has prevented some ships from setting sail. Some Ships (maybe we should call them "Ice Breakers") kept their keels in the water (or ice) all winter!

In this Spring edition of the Telegraph you will read of Ships 1009 and 90 and others that have undertaken great Sea Explorer activities despite being pummeled by cold and snow. The Spring season is now upon us and to start the season right, the Delaware Valley Sea Explorer Ball and Bridge of Honor heralds not only a new Queen but fresh new experiences for our young men and women who make up the great crews of

Skipper Bill James

Inside This Issue...

Sea Explorer Training Weekend	page 5
Regional Boatswain	page 5
Summer Hands-on Training Program	page 6

1995-1996 Regional Sea Exploring Committee

NE Regional Commodore

Bruce Chr. Johnson

410-740-7204- Baltimore Area Council 220

NE Regional Exploring Executive

Bob Legg

908-821-6500- Regional Office

SALES TEAM

Jim LaBarre

410-848-5202 Baltimore Area Council 220

John Murray

301-776-9033 National Capital Area Council 82

Nancy Jean Reeder

716-544-8668 Otetiana Council 397

TRAINING TEAM

S. D. Broder

203-853-9291 Fairfield County Council 68

Jeremiah M. Crabtree

301-262-0394 National Capital Area Council 82

Martin Maher

718-871-2279 Greater NY Councils 640

Rafi Y.A. Sharif

410-367-3024 Baltimore Area Council 220

LT Wayne Stacey, USCG

302-537-9718 Del-Mar-Va Council 81

George E. Vinet, Jr.

718-984-6196 Staten Island Council 645

Douglas Yeckley

410-326-4291 National Capital Area Council 82

BOAT & GEAR TEAM

Vice Comm. Hugh & Betty Stephens

516-767-0755 Nassau County Council 386

Henry Nygard

301-598-6152 National Capital Area Council 82

PROGRAM / COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Bill James, Newsletter Editor

609-589-3088 Southern N.J. Council 334

Bob Sirhal, Associate Editor

401-789-7929 Narragansett Council 546

Jeff Murray, Adv. to Reg. Boatswain

301-776-9033 National Capital Area Council 82

Amanda Kellaher, Regional Boatswain

Marc Scimonelli, Regional Boatswain's Mate

Baltimore Area Council 220

Commodore...

(Continued from page 1)

holders of Quartermaster will be able to purchase replacement Quartermaster items.

Summer Cruise

The 1995 U.S. Coast Guard Barque "Eagle" cruise went so well last summer that the opportunity will be offered again for this summer. This year's cruise will give eight Able and Quartermaster Sea Explorers the opportunity to cruise with the Coast Guard cadets to Europe and St. Petersburg, Russia and back for four weeks at a time. The only cost is food (something like \$120) and transportation to and from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Application materials have been sent to all Skippers. It is planned to offer a similar program next summer. The Sea Scouts who participated in the '95 cruise all reported that it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Literature

The next printing of the "Sea Explorer Manual" has been postponed to January '97. This means that there is still a little time to submit suggestions for changes or enhancements. I'm now the editor of the

Manual, so please submit any specific suggestions to me NOT LATER THAN 1 APRIL 96. The '97 printing will include some significant revisions to the advancement requirements. As soon as they appear in print, your Sea Scouts will be welcome to use the new requirements immediately. They will be allowed to continue working on their current rank using the old requirements until 30 June 97. The new requirements will become man-datory after that date.

I will also be forming a task force to work on more major revisions to the Manual in the coming months. Please get in touch with me if you're interested in helping out with that.

A new edition of the *Sea Explorer Leaders' Specialized Training Instructor's Guide* was approved and will be available from the National Exploring Division in the next couple of months. If you'd like to get an advanced copy (which you can begin using immediately), send me a 9 x 12-inch self-addressed envelope with postage for 4 ounces. (My address is found on page 4 of "The Telegraph.")

(Continued on page 3)

Scuttlebutt — SEABADGE NE-VIII

Skipper Rafi Sharif and his mates George Vinet, John Murray, James LaBarre and Bill James have met to plan SEABADGE NE-VIII. Subject to approval, it will be held at the Maritime Institute of Technology in Baltimore October 18-20, 1996 and the fee will be \$155 per participant.

On Saturday at 7 PM there will be a pool-side rendezvous of all participants from NE-I through VIII (cost of \$15 includes souvenir book; T-shirts will be available). Both the rendezvous and the course promise to be fantastic! Plan ahead and don't miss this premier regional event. More details will be forthcoming with a fact sheet and application

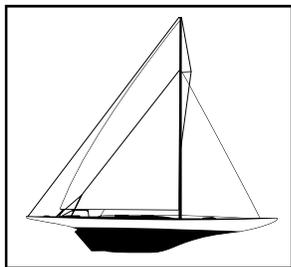
The Delaware Valley Annual Sea Explorer Ball and Bridge of Honor

April and Pat Maska and Harry Ruhle of S.E.S. II Seagull have spearheaded once again one of the finest Sea Exploring events in the Region, some say in the country. Hosting this event for fourteen consecutive years, April, Pat and Harry are quick to thank C.J. Testone, Scout Executive of the Southern New Jersey Council for his unwavering support for this premier event. This year's Bridge of Honor hosted 270 Sea Scouts and Scouters representing eighteen Ships from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Delaware Valley Sea Explorer Ball and Bridge of Honor maintains the tradition of choosing a Queen of the Ball, with a twist. In 1971, Sea Exploring became co-ed, so now the Queen (and for the second year the King) must be a

registered Sea Explorer. This year's Queen was Lisa Walsh of Ship II, and the King of the Ball was Marc Scimonelli of Ship 361.

Quartermasters and Ables were recognized. The Loyal Order of the Moose honored Eagle Scouts and the P O W / M I A Committee of Gloucester and Camden Counties recognized Quartermasters and also presented the Commander Thomas J. Keane Award to Ron Hall of Ship 90. Ernst Below of Ship 5 received the Silver Beaver.



The most visible part of the Bridge of Honor was the Landship, displaying the binnacle, masts, flags, lights, and bells. Ship 361 Skipper Bruce Johnson, from Columbia, MD, and his crew performed a precise landship ceremony.

Skippers Take Boating Safety Course

Here's an item from the October 1995 issue of *Exploring Update*:

Skippers Take a Boating Safety Course & Get a Complimentary Boat / US Membership

"A complimentary BOAT/US membership will be provided to anyone age 18 and older who completes a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators by September 1, 1996.

Graduates of courses conducted by groups such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, and state-sponsored courses need only send a copy of their course completion certificate to BOAT/US headquarters along with a membership application which can be obtained from the course instructor or by calling BOAT/US at 703-461-2866."

The Northeast Region Sea Exploring Committee strongly encourages all Sea Exploring adult leaders to complete training with one of the above named boating safety organizations.

Bill Rogers
National Sea Exploring Director

Delaware Valley Sea Explorer Rendezvous

The 6th Annual Delaware Sea Explorer Rendezvous will be held on June 21-22-23 at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey. The cost will be \$18 per person, which will include berthing in Navy billets, meals in Navy Mess, and all trophies and awards.

For information and registration contact Mr. Charles Porter, Chairman-Rendezvous Committee, at 215-729-2642.

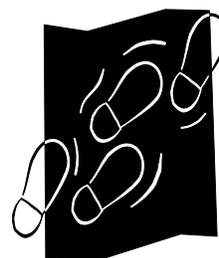
Commodore...

(Continued from page 2)

The uniform inspection sheet and the Sea Exploring literature

and insignia listing will be added to the next printing of the Manual. "How to Organize a Sea Explorer Ship" will be available

(Continued on page 4)



Wandering around the 'Net...

There's a whole great big world outthere in cyberspace, and while you're surfing the Internet, you'll want to check out the Sea Exploring Home Page.

Our Internet address is:
<http://www.HiWAAY.net/usscouts/>

Former King's Point Commandant Speaks at Fairfield County Council Bridge of Honor

The Fairfield (CT) County Council Sea Exploring Squadron held its council Bridge of Honor on January 27, 1996 at the First Church Congregational in Fairfield, Connecticut. The purpose of the event was to honor advancement during the preceding twelve months by individual Sea Explorers throughout the state. The Bridge of Honor was hosted by Ship 101 of the Greater Bridgeport area, under the leadership of Skipper Michael Curran and Boatswain Bonnie Chang.

Conducted on a specially constructed "landship" with a wooden ship's wheel, main and mizen masts, bow staff, lifelines, and international flags, the ceremony observed all the traditional nautical customs and courtesies of Sea Exploring dating back to 1912. All guests and Ship's officers were piped over the side, and sideboys were posted when appropriate.

Commodore Roger Crossland explained that in Sea Exploring, if you could not bring the Sea Explorers to the ship, you brought the ship, "a landship", to the Sea Explorers. He proceeded to explain the parts of the (land)ship and the significance of the various flags present. After the presentation of awards by the Commodore, the guest speaker, Captain Robert Safarik, United States Merchant Service, spoke on the interrelationship of integrity, leadership, and seamanship.

The ceremony was followed by dancing and donated refreshments. Present were CT Ships 101, 84, 14, 34, & 480. also Ship 1 Westerly (RI), and Ship 272 of Manhattan, NY.

Commodore...

(Continued from page 3)

as a bin item from the National Exploring Division. Finally, the project that several Northeast and Western Region Sea Scouters are working on to develop a new "*Handbook for Skippers*" was approved by the National Committee. If you have any specific suggestions for text to be included in the new Skippers' handbook, please send them to me NOT LATER THAN 1 MAY 96. (If you're unable to meet that date but you would like to work on a specific section, please let me know immediately.)

Recharter

All Ships are reminded that they should check to make sure that their unit specialty code is _1208_. It is very important that you get this right but Sea Exploring mailings are sent only to Exploring units with that code. Call your council registrar and ask what code your Ship is listed under. If it's not 1208 (or your Ship's national unit number doesn't start with 5000 (i.e. 5361) then you are being left out of Sea Exploring-related mailings from BSA.

Texas A & M Maritime School

Every Skipper should have received application materials for the scholarship program in maritime and oceanographic studies at Texas A & M University. This program is open to all Seamen Ables and Quartermasters and is a full scholarship for a summer of study. A & M's cruise will include stops at Vera Cruz, Mexico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and St. George's, Bermuda. Watch for information

for the summer of '97.

DRMO Surplus

Bob French, Commodore of Western Region Area 3, is willing to help any Ship looking for specific surplus government equipment (i.e. boats). Give me (Bruce) a call and I'll give you his phone number and address in California.

SEAL Training

A pilot Sea Exploring Advanced Leadership Training will be offered in the Caribbean this summer for six Sea Explorers from around the country who have reached the rank of Ordinary. This is a pilot program that will include a week of cruising, incorporating leadership development challenges. It is hoped that this can be offered for free. (Selected Explorers would have to pick up the cost of airfare to and from Miami.)

Skippers who feel they have particularly qualified Sea Explorers should forward their names to me for consideration. Please only recommend Explorers who will be active in your Ship during the '96-'97 Scouting year.

I hope you will agree that there are some exciting developments and opportunities coming up. As always, if you have any issues that you feel should be addressed at the national or regional levels, please bring them to my attention via Internet e-mail at: bjoh@loc.gov; or the US mail at: 6148 Llanfair Drive, Columbia, MD 21044; or by telephone at: 202-707-1652, (days). ☼

31ST HENRY I. NYGARD REGATTA

MAY 25 – 27, 1996

GREENWELL STATE PARK, MARYLAND

This is one of the oldest and best-known regattas in the country, offering:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| h Team Swim | h Radio |
| h Pulling Boat Race | Communications |
| h Sailboat Competition | h Compass |
| h Boatswain Chairlift | |

The cost will be only \$25 which includes all meals.

Welcome!

Welcome aboard to the Northeast Region's newest ship:
Ship 54 — Budd Lake, New Jersey
 Skipped by Tony Lorenc

Amanda Kellaher Selected as Regional Boatswain

Boatswain Amanda Kellaher of Ship 1009 has been selected as the **Regional Boatswain**. She began service on the quarterdeck in 1992 as the Assistant Charlie Crew Leader. Since then she has been Purser and Crew Leader. Last Spring she was elected Boatswain of Ship 1009. She has participated in six leadership retreats and been trained in many leadership techniques including the Psychology of Achievement, and Steven Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

Amanda holds the rank of Able and expects to complete Quartermaster soon. She has taken numerous long cruises. At Sea Base in Florida she was selected as Boatswain of the Phoenix, a 44-foot sail-boat and sailed to Key West. She was the only Sea Explorer from the Northeast Region to attend and compete in the Long Beach, California Sea Explorer Rendezvous. There she competed with the Sea Wolf and contributed to winning the Windjammer Award. In 1995, she earned the Skipper's Award and the Sea Explorer of the Year for 1996.

Active in her community, her church and school (Headmaster's List), she finds the energy to belong to the Art Club, Spanish Club (six years of Spanish), and the Varsity Sailing Team. Amanda dreams of attending the US Naval Academy and starting her adult life as a naval officer. After having worked in Congressman Richard Neal's office in Congress for the past two summers, her ultimate goal is to be elected a member of the US House of Representatives.

2nd Annual Sea Explorer Training Weekend

The second Annual Sea Exploring Training Weekend, sponsored by SES 1009, was held at Camp Round Meadow in Catoctin National Park (MD) on 19-21 January 1996.

One hundred forty-seven registered participants from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and Germany gorged themselves on nautical knowledge, inter alia, navigation, drill, semaphore, Rules of the Road, knot tying, Marlinspike, and ornamental rope work. Thanks go out to the Coast Guard Auxiliary who staffed many of the classes. Many adult leaders took advantage of the Adult Sea Exploring Leader Training and the Sea Exploring Specialty Training.

Next year's Training Weekend will be held 17-19 January, 1997. Plans are in the works to schedule a similar training week-end in New England for Fall 1996 or Spring 1997.

Marc Scimonelli, Regional Boatswain-Elect

Marc Scimonelli is an enthusiastic member of Ship 361 SES Columbia Ranger. He has been selected to serve as Regional Boatswain-Elect, and will succeed Regional Boatswain Amanda Kellaher in 1997.

Marc is an outstanding student at Howard High School who has recently served as Boatswain of his Ship and is working hard toward his Able rank. He has participated in a long cruise and is an integral part of his Ship's activities. His long range goal is to attend the US Naval Academy.

The Telegraph

c/o William James
425 Wayne Avenue
Pitman, NJ 08071

Sea Explorer Summer Hands-On Training Weekend Aug. 9-11, '96

Ship 1009 will sponsor a Sea Explorer Summer Hands-On Training Weekend from 9-11 August at Deep Creek State Park in Western

Maryland. The cost is \$20 per person (each Ship is responsible for its own tendage and food). For more information contact: Jerry Crabtree,

12409 Stirrup Lane, Bowie, MD 20715 or by phone 301-262-0394 or by e-mail at: jmcrabt@erol.com. Courses to be offered include:

Safety Afloat	Adult water safety class	Boat 1	Class will cover the boats requirements in Able Rank requirement #6.
Small Boat Handler	Successful completion will qualify the Sea Explorer for the Small Boat Handler award outlined in the Sea Exploring Manual.	Boat 2	Class will cover the boats requirements in Quartermaster requirement #6.
Advanced Seamanship	Successful completion will qualify the Sea Explorer for the Qualified Seaman award outlined in the Sea Exploring Manual. You must be Ordinary Rank or higher to take this class.	Boat Maintenance	Class will cover the Boat Maintenance requirements in Able requirement #17.
Rowing	Class will cover requirements for the Rowing Merit Badge.	Pulling Boat	Class will cover the Boats requirements in Able Rank requirement #18b.
Explorer Sail Training	Class will cover the Exploring Sail Training Plan in the appendix to the Sea Exploring Manual.	Canoeing	Class will cover the requirements for the canoeing Merit Badge.
Sailing 1	Class will cover the sailing requirements in Ordinary Rank, requirements #1 & #17e.	Swimming	Class will cover the swimming requirements in Ordinary Rank requirement #12.
Sailing 2	Class will cover the sailing requirements in Able Rank requirement #18a.	Life Saving	Class will cover the swimming requirements in Able Rank requirement