



Happy New Year to all!

2008 should prove to be a very busy year for Sea Scouting in the Northeast Region. We have a number of region-wide events, in addition to the flotilla events, to engage all of the Ships of the region.

January and February begin the year with the weekend Training events in western Maryland and the Delaware Valley.

March continues with the Liberty Flotilla event at SUNY Maritime College and ends with our traditional Regional Bridge of Honor and Ball in Jamesburg. Associated with this activity is the Annual Skippers Meeting and Bos'n Meeting.

June has the region based SEAL courses on the Chesapeake and Long Island Sound.

July has the William I Koch International Cup being held at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. The Northeast Region is the host and fiscal agent for this year's event.

And we finish the busy summer with the Regional Sailing Championships in late August. The location still needs to be agreed upon with our prospective hosts. Again this year the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point NY and the Coast Guard Academy in New London CT have offered their facilities to us for the Sail-Off weekend.

All in all, a very busy year! I hope all ships in the region take advantage of these opportunities to have their ship members meet and greet other Sea Scouts from Maine to Virginia.

I look forward to working with all of you this coming year.

Yours in Sea Scouting,
Bob Sirhal
Regional Commodore

**I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a gray mist on the sea's face and a gray dawn breaking.** = John Masefield "Sea Fever"



United States Coast Guard /
Chesapeake Sea Scout Flotilla
SAFETY-AT-SEA ACTIVITY
USCG Station, Annapolis MD



The fourth annual SASA was held Saturday, 8 September 2007. This co-ed event, open to all registered Sea Scouts and Venturers, offered a chance to actually participate in activities such as shooting off flares, experiencing cold water immersion, properly donning survival suits and trying to keep “afloat”, seeing a helicopter rescue, and learning more about the various missions of the United States Coast Guard. Since a “picture is worth a 1000 words” here are some candid shots taken throughout the day’s events.

Seabadge XVII a Success!!!

The US Coast Guard Training Center at Cape May, New Jersey served as an outstanding venue for the Northeast Region Seabadge XVII. Under the leadership of Ben Feril, Seabadge XVII Course Director, twelve experienced and dedicated Sea Scouters provided a weekend of leadership and management training to 23 Sea Scouters from all over the Northeast Region as well as one participant from Michigan. A strong supporter of Sea Scouting, the Coast Guard Training Center provided berthing, messing facilities, as well as the use of the Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer Hall for all Seabadge XVII classes. In addition to classroom instruction, this year’s Seabadge XVII participants had an opportunity to tour the training center facilities as well as US Coast Guard Cutter VIGOROUS. Planning and coordinating Seabadge XVII began over a year ago which included meeting with Chief Petty Officer Fred Delbow, USCG, US Coast Guard Training Center Scouting Liaison and conducting three site visits; recruiting an outstanding staff, and marketing the course to all eligible Sea Scouters in the Northeast Region. As in the three previous Northeast Seabadge Courses, Seabadge XVII featured the Sea Scout Advanced Leadership Training (SEAL) program and invited Jessica Hopkins, New York SEAL Course graduate from Ship 198, DELMARVA Council, who provided an excellent overview of the SEAL program and encouraged participants to submit applications of qualified Sea Scouts for the 2008 program.



Graduation Day Photo (courtesy of N.Guzman)



(photos courtesy of G.Kain)



Everything A-OK at SASA

"CATOCTIN" - The longest running Sea Scout Training in America

Fourteen years ago (1994), a young Sea Scout leader went looking for a place that provided an environment of tranquility to train his Sea Scouts. Little did he know that the location of choice would be in the U.S. National Park Service - Catoctin Mountain Park. This area was developed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Tree Army, the Historic Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC enrollees throughout the country were credited with renewing the nation's decimated forests by planting an estimated three billion trees from 1933 to 1942.

In 1936, the federal government created the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area by acquiring more than 10,000 acres to demonstrate the restoration of forest lands. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built many facilities in the demonstration area, including cabins and shelters. This was the beginnings of Camp David (Roosevelt's Shangri-La) and Camp Round Meadow, current home of the Sea Scout weekend training venue. Roosevelt was a strong supporter of Scouting and more importantly Sea Scouts, a site well chosen.

That young skipper was Jerry Crabtree of Ship 1009. Jerry directed the Sea Scout training for eight years. He then handed the helm to Frank Boals of Ship 59. A year later Skipper Steve Nichols of Ship 1942 mastered the helm and has done so for the last five years.

The Catoctin Winter Training Weekend has seen immense growth and development over the years as well as increasing demand for attendance by the Sea Scouts. The program has had capacity loads of 200+ members attending for the past two years.

Due to the high demand for this training venue the Delaware Valley Flotilla began the Presidents Day Training last year for those that could not be accommodated. The program, with Skippers Gene Foley and Ann Newman as the Masters of the Helm, will sail again this year (February 15-17, 2008). Many of the instructors from Catoctin Training will also facilitate at this training event.

This year the Catoctin weekend (January 4-6, 2008) had 125 Sea Scouts and 75 adults attend, of which thirty of those adults were new to Sea Scouting. The youngest Ship to attend with a compliment of new Sea Scouts and the furthest south was Ship 2318 from Avendale, GA; from the north edge of the region, Ship 876 of Liverpool, NY. Let's not leave out the westernmost Ship 733 from Barboursville, WV and the easternmost Ship 198 from Lewis, MD. The bragging rights for the "senior citizen" ship belongs to Ship 90 of New Milford, PA (they were chartered in 1941).

The Catoctin Winter Training Weekend is set to run next year with registration opening on October 16, 2008 (http://www.seascout.net/chesapeake/catoctin_training.htm), but why wait? The Presidents Day Training Event is just around the corner (February 15-17, 2008). To obtain their boarding manual, please contact Ernest Below, Event Purser, skipperebel@aol.com or access the NER website at http://neregion.seascout.org/program_and_communications/Presidents_Day_Boarding_Manual_2008.doc

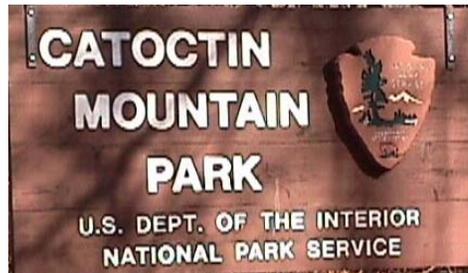
Photos from the January 2008 weekend (courtesy of N.Guzman)



Semaphore Sea Scouts



Knot Work



Welcome



Ship Shape



Demonstration of Proper Land Ship Crew Muster

A VIEW FROM THE FO'C'S'LE



Ahoy, Mates!

I'm Connor Rieve, this year's Northeast Regional Boatswain's Mate. It's been an exciting time, hasn't it? Some of the events I have participated in during 2007 included the Northeast Region Sailing Championship at Kings Point, NY in August, and taught "Rules of the Road" at the Liberty Flotilla SUNY Training event last March. I also attended the launch of the Long Island SEAL class this July, the Delaware Valley Flotilla Presidents Day Training Weekend in Tabernacle, NJ last February, and helped out at the CT Yankee Council annual GAM in June.

Well, just to tell you a little about my self, I am currently attending Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA and working toward a BS in Building Construction Management. While a student at Bethel High, I was very involved with the Naval Jr. ROTC program, rising to the rank of Lieutenant, and serving as 2nd in command as the Executive Officer. I am also a member of Venturing Crew 177, and have served as its president.

My time with Sea Scouts has been very busy. Our ship is very active, and tries to attend many of the regional events that are offered. Sea Scout Ship 110 sails on "Not By Bread Alone" a 35' Gambere sloop. We do a lot of sailing in the summer and participate in a number of racing events sponsored by local yacht clubs. My greatest time at Sea Scouts was when I graduated from the Houston, TX SEAL in the summer of 2006 under the instruction of Skipper Mike Walker.

Being the Regional Boatswain's Mate has taught me leadership and communication skills. Before, I didn't want to talk in front of groups and now all I want to do is talk about experiences I have had in Sea Scouts and hopefully pass on some knowledge to everyone else.

People ask me all the time why do I still participate in Sea Scouts now that I'm in college? Well, anywhere you go, you meet someone in Scouting or an old timer that used to sail when he was younger. Those conversations of hearing about the old days of Scouting and how it changed into today's ever growing art of sailing are exciting to me. I think I will be involved with Sea Scouts for a long time to come. Who knows? Maybe I will be a skipper of a ship some day!

Well, I hope to see everyone at this year's Northeast Regional Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball. I will be up there at the podium talking away as one of your hosts.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can email me at reddragon88@sbcglobal.net. Lastly, I encourage you to fill out the application forms for becoming next year's Regional Boatswain's Mate. You never know, you just might get it. And I hope you find it as rewarding and exciting as I have!!

"In life there's people who make things happen, people who watch things happen, and people who wonder what just happened."

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Skippers, it is time to submit your candidate forms for the next Regional Sea Scouting Boatswain's Mate/Boatswain-Elect for 2008-09 and Boatswain for 2009-10. Each council having Sea Scouts who meet the qualifications listed below may recommend them to the Region.

QUALIFICATIONS: To run for Regional Sea Scout Boatswain's Mate/Boatswain-Elect a Sea Scout must:

1. Be a high school junior, senior, or college freshman and hold at least the rank of Ordinary.
2. Be under 22 years of age on April 15, 2010.
3. Be a present or past senior youth leader in his/her Ship (i.e. Boatswain or Boatswain's Mate) or council Wardroom/Quarterdeck/VPA/VOA.
4. Be an active Sea Scout for the immediate past two years and currently active in a Sea Scout Ship.
5. Be recommended and approved by his/her Skipper.
6. Be recommended and approved by his/her council.

TERM OF OFFICE: The Regional Sea Scout Boatswain's Mate/Boatswain-Elect will serve as Boatswain's Mate from March 30, 2008 to April 1, 2009. They will subsequently serve as Regional Sea Scout Boatswain from April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010.

ACTION: Each council wishing to nominate a Sea Scout should approve and forward the completed nomination form to the Northeast Region headquarters office in Jamesburg, NJ, by February 16, 2008. The selection by the Regional Sea Scouting Committee will take place by March 1, 2008. The Change of Watch will occur at the Regional Bridge of Honor.

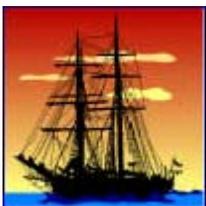


Forms can be found in the RBOH Boarding Manual or on the NER Website at:
http://neregion.seascout.org/program_and_communications/Bosn.pdf.

The nominee should attach no more than six pages on white paper to this application stating his or her qualifications for Regional Sea Scout Boatswain. These pages should include:

1. Experience as Ship's Boatswain, Boatswain's Mate, or office held within the council Wardroom, Quarterdeck, VPA, or VOA.
2. Leadership experience, advancement, cruising, awards, training, and other activities related to Sea Scouting.
3. Honors, leadership positions, awards, and training from church, Scouting, or other organizations.
4. School awards, clubs, sports, scholarships, and leadership positions.
5. A statement on college or career plans.
6. A brief statement on why you want to be Regional Sea Scout Boatswain.
7. Other information on your qualifications to run for office.

Lastly, all candidates are asked to include a black and white, head and shoulders, 3x5 photograph to be used for publicity purposes. Portraits taken in Sea Scout uniform preferred; no sports gear, please.



I joined the Navy to see the world. And what did we see? We saw the sea.

= Irving Berlin

**They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters,
these see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep.**

= Psalms 107:23-24

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please be sure to set time aside to attend the **Northeast Region, BSA, Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball (RBOH)**. We will be hosting this annual event on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**, and the port of call again is the Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport, New Jersey.

The theme this year: **The greatest journey you'll ever be on!**

We are thrilled to announce that our Keynote Speaker this year is Martha J. LaGuardia-Kotite, Commander, US Coast Guard Reserves, and Author "So Others May Live (Coast Guard's Rescue Swimmers: Saving Lives, Defying Death)". Be sure to take advantage of our special offer and order your copy of her novel and join the private book signing and Q&A session.

And the Land Ship Ceremony will be presented by a combined crew from Ships in the New England Flotilla.

The Boarding Manual has been posted on the NER website at: http://neregion.seascout.org/program_and_communications/ner_boh.html. We look forward to another great RBOH this year. Set a course for the 2008 RBOH and rendezvous with member Ships of the NER. All the forms you need are included in the Boarding Manual.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Beth Parks, RBOH Registrar
Elizabeth.Parks@Stryker.com



Don't miss the March 1st deadline for the 2008 Sea Scout Advanced Leadership Training (SEAL) Courses.

If you have a Scout who is Ordinary rank and shows an interest in this opportunity, send in their nomination. There's no cost to apply. Application Forms can be found on the NER website at: http://www.seascout.org/about/program/training_resources/seal.pdf

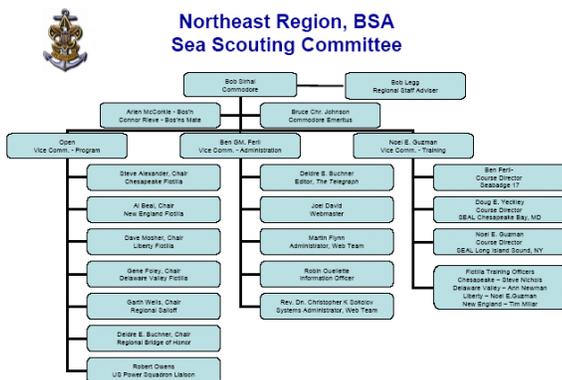
The Northeast Region has two courses scheduled:
NE-12 Date: June 21-29 = Chesapeake Bay, MD
NE-13 Date: July 26-Aug.3 = Long Island Sound, NY

For additional course information, please reach out to our Northeast Region Contacts:
SEAL / Chesapeake Bay - Skipper Douglas E. Yeckley at yeckley@earthlink.net
SEAL / New York - Skipper Noel E. Guzman at sss441Vigilant@nyc.rr.com

ALL HANDS ON DECK !

Commodore Bob Sirhal and Sea Scout Regional Director Bob Legg are pleased to announce that Skipper Ben Feril, Ship 1-MD, has been appointed to the position of Vice Commodore - Administration beginning November 2007. His responsibilities include oversight of the NER Website and the Systems Support Team, the Editor of The Telegraph, and the NER Information Chair.

Congratulations to Ben and the Regional Committee.



Without your help . . .
Sending in articles from your Flotilla or Ship . . .
This space will remain blank in the Future!

It is the objective of **The Telegraph** to be a publication of activities across the Northeast Region, to recognize contributions of Ships, Skippers and Scouts, to push exposure in all Flotillas, to include input from our regional youth officers, and to promote nautical subjects and concerns, while having fun and increasing readership. We hope the success and positive feedback on the past issues will encourage you to send in regular submissions for the newsletter. ((Be sure to include credits for any photographs too.))

Please send emails to: deidre.buchner@prudential.com

JUST FOR FUN...



THREE OF A KIND

Each set of word below have something in common. Can you think of the clever link?

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1 | Barber | Rooster | Beehive | _____ |
| 2 | Bowling Alley | Tailor | Wrestling Match | _____ |
| 3 | Telephone | Deck of Cards | Car Trunk | _____ |
| 4 | Fishing Rod | Actor | Checkout Counter | _____ |
| 5 | Watermelon | Tennis Tournament | Idea | _____ |
| 6 | Pelican | Legislature | Person in Debt | _____ |
| 7 | Pie | Beach | Shotgun | _____ |
| 8 | Bicycle | Shopping Mall | Winter Tire | _____ |
| 9 | Archer | Violinist | Gift Package | _____ |
| 10 | April | Locker Room | Bride-to-be | _____ |
| 11 | Curtain | Fisherman | Nuclear Reactor | _____ |
| 12 | Computer | Party Spread | Poker Game | _____ |
| 13 | Catcher | Dinner Table | Armadillo | _____ |
| 14 | Dentist | Oil Field | Army Camp | _____ |
| 15 | Radar | Porch | Job Interview | _____ |
| 16 | Buffaloes | Cell Phones | Nomads | _____ |
| 17 | Wedding Reception | Marshmallows | Breakfast Meal | _____ |
| 18 | Boy | Girl | Sea | _____ |

**Our passions are the winds that propel our vessel. Our reason is the pilot that steers her.
Without winds the vessel would not move and without a pilot she would be lost.**

= Traditional Nautical Proverb