



Volume 12, No.2

The Voice of Sea Scouting in the Northeast Region

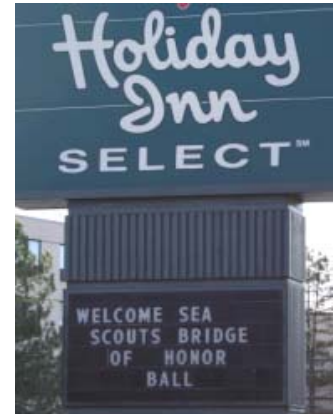
Spring 2008

2008 Regional Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball

The sun has set on the 26th Annual Northeast Region BSA Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball. Wow, what a fantastic time! We thought you might like to hear some of the highlights from the March 29th event that turned into the greatest journey we've ever been on.

In the morning, Commodore Bob Sirhal led the Regional Committee Meeting. Reports and items for action were discussed during this important business meeting. After lunch, adults convened for a Skippers Meeting to hear of upcoming events in the local Flotillas and the youth met with the Regional Boatswain Arlen McCorkle and Regional Boatswain's Mate Connor Rieve to discuss some key topics of concern among the region and obtain their feedback for improvements and innovations.

It has become a tradition at the recent RBOHs to have some sort of emergency episode that provides the Sea Scouts a chance to demonstrate their ability to be prepared to render aid to those in need. Past events have included fire and smoke conditions, stuck elevators, disabled automobiles and gashed foreheads. This year, we kept things much more civilized, with a community blood drive and a chili cook-off planning meeting. So the worst thing that happened was a donation band-aid and some antacids for a little indigestion!



Landship presented by the New England Flotilla.



The Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport, NJ, saw 234 Sea Scouts from 33 Ships out of 10 States and 1 Foreign Country (Germany) in full uniform at the Bridge of Honor ceremonies this year. A combined crew from the New England Flotilla (Ships 40, 45, 76 and 584) performed the Land Ship Ceremony. And they did a great job. Bravo Zulu! During the dinner portion of the evening, we heard remarks from Keynote Speaker Commander Martha J. LaGuardia-Kotite, US Coast Guard Reserves. She spoke of her life journey and how the choices she made led her to a career in the USCG and involvement with the Rescue Swimmer program.

One of the highlights of the Bridge of Honor is the recognition bestowed on the Sea Scouts, adult and youth alike. Here is a listing of those honors:

Sea Scout of the Year: (we had 14 for 2008)

Bryan Huntley - Ship 1, CT
Teaghan Fredericks - SSS Jubilee, Ship 5, PA
Lara Brugo - SSS Barracuda, Ship 12, NY
Justin M. Weaver - SSS Yorkshire, Ship 25, PA
Michael Verderosa - SSS Sea Dog, Ship 26, NY
Chris Tessing - SSS New Jersey, Ship 62, NJ
Emalee Ellis - SSS Spirit of '76, Ship 76, MA

Daniel Gall - SSS North Star, Ship 90, PA
David Korin - SSS Not By Bread Alone, Ship 110, CT
Jessica E. Gilliland-Hopkins - SSS Eagle, Ship 198, DE
Richard W. Auman - SSS Vigilant, Ship 441, NY
Natalie M. Yeckley - SSS Sea Eagle, Ship 548, MD
Amanda Ballassi - SSS Dragon, Ship 584, CT
Kaitlynn Menoche - SSS Dragon Lady, Ship 1942, VA

Commander Thomas J Keane Award:

Eugene A. Foley – Ship 62, NJ

International Scouter's Award:

Bruce Chr. Johnson – Ship 361, MD



Some of our 2008 Sea Scouts of the Year

Catherine A Mullikin Sea Scout Volunteer Award:

Devon Fehn - Ship 548, MD

Regional Venturing Leadership Award:

Deidre E. Buchner – Ship 243, NJ

Regional Commodore Award of Excellence: (we had 9 for 2007)

SSS Jubilee - Ship 5, West Chester, PA
SSS Barracuda - Ship 12, Glen Cove, NY
SSS Sea Dog - Ship 26, West Hempstead, NY
SSS Spirit of '76 - Ship 76, Harwich, MA
SSS North Star - Ship 90, New Milford, PA

SSS Not By Bread Alone - Ship 110, Bridgeport, CT
SSS Vigilant - Ship 441, Queens, NY
SSS Sea Eagle - Ship 548, Avenue, MD
SSS Dragon Lady - Ship 1942, Arlington, VA

The Jewish Committee on Scouting, Suffolk County NY, also recognized the high rank achievements of our fellow Sea Scouts over the past year, including:

Quartermaster:

Drew Brenneman Ship 25, PA
Alexander Whitaker Ship 1009, MD
Megan Hebda Ship 1942, VA
Mollie Hebda Ship 1942, VA
Danielle Meeker Ship 1942, VA
Andrew Scheuermann Ship 1942, VA
Julie von Baumgarten Ship 1942, VA

Eagle:

Michael DiDomenico Ship 5 / Troop 108, PA
William T. O'Neill Ship 12 / Troop 7, NY
Justin M. Weaver Ship 25, PA
Timothy Trezza Ship 26, NY
Chris Bright Ship 62 / Troop 77, NJ
Michael Patrick Thomas Ship 178, PA
Ryan Mock Ship 198 / Troop 1, DE

Venturing Silver:

Alexander Whitaker Ship 1009, MD

We also announced the new regional youth officers:

2008-2009 Regional Boatswain: Connor Rieve - Ship 110, CT

2008-2009 Regional Boatswain's Mate: Jessica E. Gilliland-Hopkins - Ship 198, DE

This year we were treated to a private Book Signing with Commander LaGuardia-Kotite who autographed copies of her book "So Others May Live - Coast Guard's Rescue Swimmers: Saving Lives, Defying Death". This book was the basis for the 2006 blockbuster film "The Guardian" (with Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher). The book has also received many awards from various organizations. As communicated, all proceeds of the book sale will sent to the USCG Foundation for the development of a new aquatic facility for the Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer School in Elizabeth City, NC.



Commander LaGuardia-Kotite, Reg. Bosun Mate Gilliland-Hopkins, Reg. Bosun Rieve, Commodore Sirhal

During the special session, the Commander provided the regional youth leaders with a special portfolio that included photographs of USCG helicopters and rescue equipment. She signed the document and wished Connor and Jessica the best as they continue their journeys as Sea Scouts in the Northeast Region.

Another highlight is the Sea Scout Ball. Almost 120 Scouts joined in the fun on the dance floor, enjoying the non-stop tunes from "Rock Your Body" with DJ Alex Robles. The sound of laughter and stomping feet from the ballroom was a good indication of the fun and playfulness of our Sea Scouts. For this year's Ball, we crowned:

2008 Sea Scout Ball's Royal Court:

- King: Tyree Scott – Ship 132, NJ
- Queen: Meg Zimmerman - Ship 5, PA
- Prince: Matthew Foxcroft - Ship 1009, MD
- Princess: Jillian Gioia – Ship 110, CT
- Jester: Patrick Shanley – Ship 110, CT

At the conclusion of the Regional Bridge of Honor evening, attendees brought home a granite party stein with the motto "Sea Scouting: The Greatest Journey You'll Ever Be On" and a neon blue Frisbee with the Sea Scout first class anchor logo.

On Sunday, energetic youth-led non-denominational Devotions were provided. The message, based on the journey of Noah's Ark, provided ten lessons learned from this story as well as the sage advice to listen to instructions, be faithful, and be prepared for whatever adventure you set out on. The morning's program was attended by almost 90 Sea Scouts. Participants in the worship service included: Jillian Gioia, Ship 110-CT, Megan Hebda, Ship 1942-VA, Amanda Ballassi of Ship 584-CT, Molly Hebda, Ship 1942-VA, Jason Fay, Ship 178-PA, Steve O'Neill, Ship 1-CT, Julia von Baumgarten, Ship 1942-VA, and Eddie Peach-Keyes, Ship 1-CT. Bravo Zulu to Mate Sue Rieve, Ship 110-CT, for her help and inspiration.

Looking Ahead

Please mark your calendars now. The 27th Northeast Region Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** at the Holiday Inn Select, Bridgeport, New Jersey.

Please also take a moment to complete the survey sent to the Skippers for feedback on this year's RBOH. Your input is most welcome and encouraged. This questionnaire should be filled in by those youth and adult crew members that attended this year's event. While we can't promise to make all the changes suggested, we do commit to trying to incorporate your comments when making the event even better in 2009.

Thank you once again for a wonderful weekend. Have a great year! Enjoy the Journey!!

Deidre Buchner
RBOH Committee Chair

Beth Parks
RBOH Registrar



((Thank you. RBOH Photos courtesy of Charles Spitz Ship 6-NJ, Noel Guzman Ship 441-NY, Ken Schnetzler USCG))

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## Presidents' Day Weekend Training is a Big Success!



Delaware Valley Flotilla has successfully completed a second Presidents Day Training Weekend. Participants at the Burlington County Council's Pine Tree Education and Environmental Center were offered a wide array of training opportunities. This event is the second in the annual winter training sequence starting with Chesapeake Flotilla at "Catoclin" and ending with Liberty Flotilla at the "Maritime College" in NY.

The Presidents Day event was represented by Ships from the NE Region and one from the Southern Region. Ships in attendance were: SSS 306, Pittsburgh, PA; SSS 201, Jenkintown, PA; SSS 178, Philadelphia, PA; SSS 62, Camden, NJ; SSS 198, Broadkilm, DE; SSS 5, Chester, PA; SSS 110, Bridgeport, CT; SSS 99, Inwood, WV and the newest and who traveled the farthest, SSS 530, Mechanicsville, VA.



Aside from the Flotilla staff, members of the Chesapeake and Liberty Flotillas, local USCG Auxiliary and US Power Squadrons provided invaluable expertise to the 23 courses offered. Also, youth leaders, NER-Boatswain Connor Rieve, Mike Bender, Ship 198 and others stepped up to the plate by teaching classes this year.



Many of the 23 courses were very popular. Among the sessions best attended were advanced Knots, Ground Tackle, Communications, Piloting, and Compass and Navigation. Other courses included First Aid, Engines, Ship Safety Drills, and Rules of the Road. Sea Scout Leaders attended the new Sea Scout Leader Specific Training. New courses are promised next year to assure continued interest. Interest in Drill was such that a Flotilla Drill Team may be formed.



Evening activities included separate venues for showing movies, listening and dancing to music, midrats of cheese and crackers as well as pizza, popcorn and other goodies. The evening program provided a great opportunity for fellowship with other Sea Scouts from around the Northeast.

The facilities of Pine Tree Environmental Center were acquired by Burlington County Council. Pine Tree has six self-contained cabins and a conference center in addition to the dining hall surrounded by the beautiful Pine Barrens on three sides. The ideal layout of Pine Tree provided the conditions for more than just classes. The excellent meal service was provided and staffed by volunteers from Burlington County Council.



The Delaware Valley Flotilla would like to thank all those who were part of this training event and helped to make it a success. Special thanks to Bill James from the Regional Venturing Committee and John Grauvogel from Ship 178, PA, for all the wonderful pictures.

If you wish more information about this program, please contact the Flotilla Commodore Gene Foley, [eafoley@eden.rutgers.edu](mailto:eafoley@eden.rutgers.edu); Flotilla Training Chair Ann Newman, [anewman@meliorgroup.com](mailto:anewman@meliorgroup.com); or the Event Chair Dan Stryker, [dan@gainsllc.com](mailto:dan@gainsllc.com).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW !** Dates for 2009 training: Chesapeake Flotilla, "Catoctin" Jan. 9-11, 2009; Delaware Valley Flotilla "Pine Tree" Feb. 22-24, 2009 and Liberty Flotilla, "Maritime" Mar. 14, 2009.

## Spirits High at the Liberty Flotilla Sea Scout Training Event

Saturday, March 8, 2008, dawned cold and foggy. Foul weather so thick that one could not even see the Throggs Neck Bridge only 50 feet above the sturdy Fort Schuyler where the 15th Liberty Flotilla training day at the SUNY Maritime College was happening. It did not dampen the spirits of the 82 Sea Scouts who attended; actually it encouraged them to stay indoors and enjoy the nautical and historical displays in the hallways during breaks in classes. Today we had 11 Ships participate from the Tri-State Area including: Ship 6-NJ, Ship 51-NY, Ship 84-CT, Ship 110-CT, Ship 132-NJ, Ship 213-NJ, Ship 228-NJ, Ship 243-NJ, Ship 272-NY, Ship 441-NY, and Ship 460-NY.



As in years past, we had several youth instructors providing sessions on Navigational Rules (Regional Boatswain Connor Rieve, Ship 110-CT), Marlinspike and Splicing (Ray Drollinger, Ship 441-NY), Ornamental Brightwork (Art Brown, Ship 6-NJ) and, after an adult instructor cancelled, a double session on Coastal Piloting (Ray Drollinger, Ship 441-NY). We also had two US Coast Guard Auxiliary facilitators offering classes in Radio Protocol and the new Team Coordination Techniques that combines risk assessment, situational awareness and team delegation into a hands-on practical. Other topics included Introductory Charts and ATONs, Engine Troubleshooting, Basic Sailboat, Sextant How-to, as well as Sea Scout Leader Specialized Training.



Founded in 1874, the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College is an undergraduate and graduate institution focused on engineering, business, science, and maritime transportation. Fort Schuyler, built in 1833, is made of granite brought from Greenwich, CT, in an irregular pentagon, and is said to have been the finest example in the United States of the French type of fortification for the purpose of both sea and land defense. The two-story fort became the permanent land base of the New York State Merchant Marine Academy in 1934 and has gone under a lot of renovation, keeping the outward appearance of the main building pretty much the same, but the interior and classrooms have been completely transformed and modernized. Additionally, Fort Schuyler houses the Admiral Stephen B. Luce Library, Maritime Industry Museum, and the Center for Simulation and Marine Operations (providing a Bridge Simulator, Electronics Navigation, and Radar Simulator).

In reverence to that tradition, following our lunch break, a presentation was made to Dave Mosher in recognition of his loyal and dedicated service for the last ten years at the helm as the Chair of the Liberty Flotilla. The restored clock and lamp sported a brass plaque engraved with our thanks; Dave promised to find a place of honor in his home for the new trophy. Tom Handley, the first Flotilla Commodore, was on hand to applaud Dave, as was the new Flotilla Commodore, Deidre Buchner.



In 2008, the Sea Scouts did the region proud. We shared the Cadet Dining Hall with about 300+ US Navy Reserves and after the meal, their commander stopped by to acknowledge how well mannered and organized our youth were and how impressed he was at their composure. He asked for some information about our organization and commented that he would be happy to have some Sea Scouts among his ranks! Bravo Zulu to our youth.

Feedback from our participant survey has identified which sessions we will bring back for 2009 and provided some ideas for new classes to develop and research. Thank you for your input.

((The Flotilla appreciates Charlie Spitz, Ship 6-NJ, for supplying these photos.))

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The William I. Koch International Sea Scout Cup comes to Annapolis

Sea Scouts from around the world will be heading to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, the host for the Fourth Annual William I. Koch International Sea Scout Cup, July 13-19, 2008. Four ships from our Region will be participating and the Chesapeake Flotilla's training vessel *der PeLiKan* will be the Flagship for the event. Watch for a special edition of The Telegraph that will include racer interviews, observer comments, and photos.

SEABADGE 18

Course Director: Skipper Al Beal (email: BOSUN66@aol.com)

Location: USCG Air Station Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Dates: Friday, October 17 thru Sunday, October 19, 2008

Cost: \$160.00

Due to the venue, the maximum participant headcount is 24 - so enroll early!



Seabadge is the official advanced training program of Sea Scouting in the BSA. The course is designed to provide the program specific management techniques that can improve the quality of the ships' programming. It is an intensely participatory experience for the participants as they interact with one another and the faculty in seminars, workshops, role playing and discussions. The concepts are presented by veteran Sea Scouting leaders who will serve as the faculty for the course. At the same time, you will learn methods on how best to expand the program to allow more of our young people to be served in our communities.

Seabadge NE-XVIII participants will be selected from nominees recommended by their local councils. Any registered Sea Scouting leader who is active in the operations of their ship or council is eligible. Registration packet available on the NER website at http://neregion.seascout.org/training/Seabadge_18_application.doc Applications must be postmarked no later than September 1. This event is expected to fill early! A waiting list will be maintained.

As a special bonus the course participants, they will tour the Air Station and USCG Rescue Swimmer facility.

Aquatics Specialty Camp

For the sixth year, the BSA Greater New York Council will sponsor an Aquatics Specialty Camp to provide intensive training and advancement program for Sea Scouts. This year it will be held August 10-16, 2008 at Camp Kiowa, Ten Mile River Scout Reservation, in Narrowsburg, New York. Sea Scouts will be housed at sub-camp Rondack.

The program is "Sea Scout Friendly" under the direction of our very own Aquatics Coordinator Noel Guzman from Ship 441-NY. The staff also includes Sea Scout youth members and adult leaders trained in BSA Aquatics and Red Cross certifications. The program also provides training in the use of sextants and associated star gazing by the program's environmentalist "Rags" Buchner from Ship 228-NJ.

The weeklong event provides all of the Scouting aquatic merit badges as well as Motorboating and Waterskiing. The program also includes BSA Snorkeling, Mile Swim, Kayaking BSA, Boardsailing and both BSA and Red Cross Lifeguard Training, as well as CPR and First Aid certifications.

Flyers are now available

http://neregion.seascout.org/aquatics_camp_08.pdf

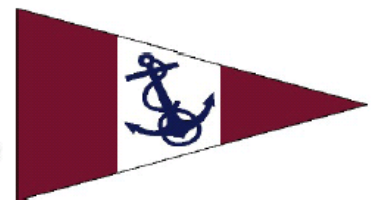
Sea Scout Summer Sailing Clinic

The Liberty Flotilla in conjunction with SUNY Maritime College will offer a Three Day Learn to Sail & Racing Clinic on Friday, July 11 to Sunday, July 13, 2008.

This is the second year Skipper Noel Guzman and SUNY Maritime College Waterfront Director Bob Crafa partnered to create a first class sailing clinic using the campus waterfront facilities and collegiate instructors.

The program offers two experience tracks: Basic Sail and Advanced Racing. The curriculum emphasizes on-the-water drills in the College's fleet of new club 420s and FJs. Beginning Students learn the fundamentals while Advanced Racing Sailors learn how to prepare for competition. Included in the on-the-water drills, capsizing and recovery as well as actual racing will occur, supported by debriefings at the end of each day with the collegiate coaches.

Cost is only \$225 per person. Flyers are now available http://neregion.seascout.org/SUNY_Sail.pdf



Safe Powerboating Course for Sea Scouts

The Liberty Flotilla in conjunction with the New York Maritime College will offer a US Powerboating Certification Course for all Skippers, both new and seasoned. Skipper Noel Guzman and SUNY Waterfront Director Bob Crafa partnered to create this first class hands-on adult water safety and seamanship program for recreational boating; the course will also provide the CT and NY Boater safety course certification.

The course, to be held on Friday, July 11 to Saturday, July 12, 2008, is for Skippers who want to learn how to safely operate a powerboat, improve and acquire safe boat handling skills. Cost is only \$200 per person. Space is limited to 10 adults – 1 per Ship, please. (If demand warrants, a second session in August may be offered.) Flyers are now available at http://neregion.seascout.org/SUNY_Powerboat.pdf



JUST FOR FUN ...

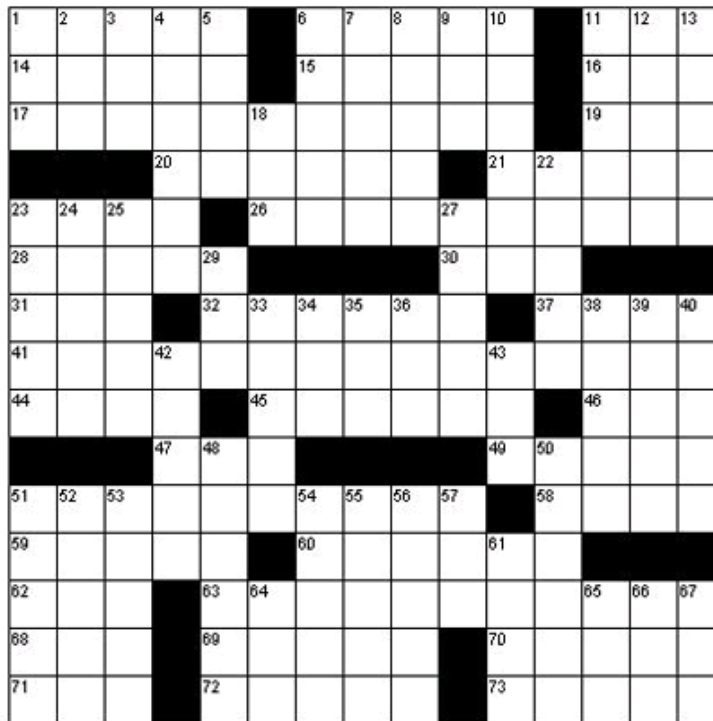
"Now Sea Here"

by Matt Gaffney

ACROSS

1. Hello, while sailing around Maui
6. Lake you can't boat on
11. Network up north: abbr.
14. Of the kidneys
15. Failed energy company
16. Line of longitude, e.g.
17. "Seriously, that's really how you tie a half-hitch!"
19. Nada
20. Word before "raid" or "liner"
21. Lauder of cosmetics
23. "What ___ thinking?"
26. Climb onto your boat before stretching?
28. Jeremy of 2004's "The Merchant of Venice"
30. Hgwy.
31. ___-picking (petty)
32. Andean animal
37. Sign gas

41. Direction-specific command to an annoying shipmate?
44. Way to go with divers in the area
45. ___ time (singly)
46. Lighter brand
47. Motor's startup: abbr.
49. "___ you!"
51. Checking for warped boards, protruding nails, etc.?
58. Affirmatives at sea
59. Shakespearean lover
60. "...___ down by the river!" (Chris Farley line)
62. ___ Jima
63. Greeting when you pull into a marina?



68. ___ del Plata (Argentine boating center)
69. "___ me do it"
70. "Watching ___"

- (Julia Louis-Dreyfus show)
71. "___ port in a storm"
72. BoatUS, and others: abbr.
73. Like ports in pirate tales

DOWN

1. Big Biblical boat
2. Spy novelist Deighton
3. John Lennon's Plastic ___ Band
4. Posh women's fastener
5. ___-Seltzer
6. Leon Redbone album "___ Blue"
7. Country north of the Maldive Islands
8. Town ___ (colonial-era news-spreader)

9. ___-Tiki (Heyerdahl craft)
10. Eat
11. "Why ___ get this right?"

12. Short
13. Music sheet marking
18. Chopin's "Nocturne ___ Major"
22. ___ pad (kind of tablet)
23. Hydroplane features
24. The Little Mermaid's first name
25. ___ voce (softly)
27. Depth of water a ship draws
29. Spotted with binoculars
33. Sierra ___ (coastal African country)
34. ATM need
35. A number of years
36. Half a dance
38. Surround with water
39. Guns N' Roses hit "Sweet Child ___"

40. Narrow waterways
42. "Bird On ___" (Mel Gibson movie)
43. Small stowaway on a ship, maybe
48. "For I've ___ little leaner..." ("We Need a Little Christmas" line)
50. It's attached to the rope in waterskiing
51. First, to Vespucci
52. Des Moines man
53. Atlanta school
54. Pill holders
55. ___ minutes (soon)
56. Bridge positions
57. Morgantown campus: abbr.
61. Mimics
64. Santa's syllables
65. "Nice job!"
66. El ___ (Spanish hero)
67. Florida island

Crossword Puzzle courtesy of Boat U.S. <http://www.boatus.com/crossword/archive.asp>

JUST FOR FUN "Three of a Kind" Answers: (1)Combs, (2)Pins, (3)Jacks, (4)Lines, (5)Seeds, (6)Bills, (7)Shells, (8)Chains, (9) Bows, (10)Showers, (11)Rods, (12)Chips, (13)Plates, (14)Drill, (15)Screens, (16)Roaming, (17)Toast, (18)Scouts. **How'd you do?**