



**"Hail and Farewell!!!!"
The National Sea Scout Committee
Announces Our New National Commodore
VADM Charles Wurster, USCG (Ret.) and a
Fond Farewell to Commodore Jimmie Homburg**



*VADM Wurster and Jimmie Homburg at the 2008 Koch Cup
(photo courtesy of Noel Guzman, Ship 441-NY)*

At the recent meeting of the National Sea Scout Committee, a Change of Command ceremony took place when VADM Charles Wurster, USCG (Ret.) assumed the title of National Commodore from outgoing Commodore Jimmie Homburg. The ceremony culminated her ten years of dedicated service to our Sea Scouting youth members when Commodore Homburg presented VADM Wurster his four-star Sea Scout burgee. Sea Scouting will continue to benefit from Commodore Homburg's experiences as she will continue to serve on the Sea Scout National Committee and will dedicate her efforts to marketing. We welcome aboard VADM Wurster, and wish farewell and quartering seas to Commodore Homburg.

Also announced at the National Sea Scout Committee Meeting was the transfer of Mr. Charles Holmes from his position as National Venturing Director to Head of the new Community Alliances Team. Charles, a dedicated professional, has been an outstanding supporter of Sea Scouting and along with Commodore Homburg, spear headed many of the changes the Sea Scouting family now enjoys. We will miss Charles Holmes and wish him a "Bravo Zulu" for his incredible contributions to Sea Scouting. Mr. Keith Christopher, head of the "National Events Department," will be our new professional director for Sea Scouts. Welcome aboard Mr. Christopher!!!

In recent months, there have been rudder changes on the national level of the Boy Scouts of America. The National Venturing Committee was dissolved and Sea Scouting is now under the newly created "Outdoor Adventures Standing Committee. What does that mean for Sea Scouts? New opportunities to improve and strengthen the program for our youth members; present and future.

In a recent e-mail, Wurster summed it up: *Whenever there is a change in leadership it is natural for questions to arise about possible changes. For the time being, "steady as she goes" will be our watchwords. We must maintain course and stand a tight watch. Meanwhile, we will plot a track-line for success in our future adventures in the Boy Scout of America. The national committee is already looking at new opportunities and challenges. You can help us and the program by bringing your ideas forward at the unit, council, area, regional, and national levels. All of us on the committee look forward to serving you and the Scouts.*

You can read the October 16th letter from the New National Commodore available online at http://www.seascout.org/for_leaders/organizational_structure/Commodore_letter.pdf

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**MORE CHANGES:** Regional Commodore Bob Sirhal is pleased to announce that Gene Stone, the Northeast Region Director has appointed Jim Dolberg as our Region Staff Advisor. Jim is an Associate Regional Director for Council Administration and his office is at the Northeast Region BSA Headquarters in Jamesburg, NJ.



*Bob Sirhal, Bob Legg and Jim Dolberg  
(photo courtesy of Deidre Buchner, Ship 228-NJ)*

Jim accepted the position from Bob Legg who retired in August after 30 plus years working within the Scouting Program.

We all owe Bob a great deal as he has provided support and wise counsel to our committee since 1990. He is all that a staff adviser should and could be. We benefitted from his collaborative approach to guiding our efforts. His countless hours working behind the scenes for our committee and our Sea Scouting program in general has set an example unmatched in any other Region of the country.

We wish Bob much happiness during his well-deserved change of venue and look forward to working with Jim. Please join me as we welcome Jim aboard our team!

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Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

-- John F. Kennedy



SEAL - Sea Scout Advanced Leadership Training

SEAL has accomplished its eleventh year. Overall, the program has graduated 179 Sea Scouts of which 72 were from the Northeast Region. This is a statement by our Region's Skippers as to the importance of this "Sea Experience" leadership program.

The program was created and developed by Jim Elroy in order to provide hands on training in management and leadership while at sea. The course requires a tremendous amount of commitment and preparation on the part of the SEAL candidate.

This year the Northeast Region has again hosted two SEAL programs.

SEAL 12 out of Maryland



(photo courtesy of William Curtis, Ship 548-MD)

National Overall

34 Candidates
26 Passed
1 did not pass
7 did not attend

SEAL 13 out of New York



(photo courtesy of Bob Sirhal, Ship 1-RI)

The New York-Long Island Sound-SEAL 13 had one of the two national overall high-scoring graduates (the sea scouts were from units based in California and Texas). For the Northeast Region, we had eight SEAL graduates in 2008. We congratulate all their achievements.

Mark Porches, S198 DE - Chesapeake
Connor Tufford, S1176 VA - Long Island
Bryan Huntley, S1CT - Long Island
Amanda Ballassi, S584 CT - Miami
Phillip Garretson, S1942 VA - Miami
Nicholas Stein, S25 PA - Miami
Jessica Stevens, S1942 VA -Texas
Natalie Yeckley, S584 MD -Texas

In 2008, the Northeast Region also had two new instructors developed under the guidance and supervision of Skipper Doug Yeckley. They are Steve Nichols and Steve Alexander. The Region now has two Course Directors and six instructors for the program.

For more information on the course schedule and the application for SEAL 2009 check out the weblink below:

http://www.seascout.org/about/program/training_resources/seal.html

The deadline is March 1st, 2009. That's just around the corner. The time is NOW to set your sails.

If you have any other questions about the SEAL program, you can reach out to the Northeast Region Contacts:

SEAL / New York - Skipper Noel E. Guzman - sss441Vigilant@nyc.rr.com
SEAL / Maryland - Skipper Douglas E. Yeckley - yeckley@earthlink.net
SEAL / United States - Coordinator James Elroy - SEAWOLF410@aol.com



“ALL HANDS ON” POWERBOATING COURSE FOR SEA SCOUT LEADERS

On a warm and sunny day this past July 11-12, the Liberty Flotilla in conjunction with SUNY Maritime College offered a 2-Day Program with hands-on powerboat handling, docking skills, and safety underway training. Skipper Noel Guzman and SUNY Waterfront Director Bob Crafa partnered to create this first class adult water safety and seamanship program for Skippers as well as Sea Scouts. The course also delivered the NY, NJ and CT Boater Safety Course certification as well as the US Powerboat certification.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has approved the course which also meets the 50 states state's boating safety education requirements to receive a boating safety certificate to operate a motorboat, and to operate a personal water craft. Many insurance companies will offer discounts to boat owners who have participated in this type of boating safety course.



Participants agreed that if any Skipper or Mate ever wanted to be a safety boat operator, or work a regional regatta event, this course would prepare them for the task at hand and any incident on the water.

This two-day course can improve on the skills of an experienced skipper as well as meet the needs of a novice. The topics are covered using a variety of techniques in the classroom, dockside demonstrations, and on-the-water drills with an emphasis on hands-on, practical application of all skills. The lecture time is reduced because, as Sea Scouts, we enter the course with a higher level of nautical knowledge than the general public, which allows for more hands-on time.



The course covers safe boat operation, docking, anchoring, mooring, marlinspike seamanship (knots, coiling and heaving line), navigation rules and navigation aids, safety equipment, emergency procedures and rendering assistance, and a host of other areas.

Skipper Jan Rose (Ship 460-NY) stated *“I decided to take the course for speed control and to improve my docking technique, which was ‘on the money’.”*

Sea Scout Frank Sehn (Ship 441-NY) commented that *“this course improved my docking skills as well as pursuit turns at high speeds, it was awesome.”*



New mate Craig Goodman (Ship 96-NY) stated *“I particularly learned MOB and controlling the boat in the wake of another. This is truly worth the cost.”*

A seasoned Mate Rags Buchner (Ship 228-NJ) felt *“the biggest asset was the variety of vessels and jibs to rotate on, as well as the lesson, the practice and the review format was impressive. I also honed my skills with holding a position with wind and current, not easy on the East River in NY”.*

(Photos courtesy of Bob Crafa, SUNY)

The course, which can only accommodate 12 participants at a time, had 8 for its first run from Ships 441-NY, 460-NY, 96-NY, and 228-NJ. The coordinators plan to hold the course next year in the Summer of 2009; with the potential for a second session if needs allow. Please check in with the Liberty Flotilla website for further details.



Sea Scout Aquatics Specialty Camp

A review by Conner Rieve, NER Bosun

The sailing season is over and now its time to get back to the books and prepare for next season. There have been numerous activities up and down the Northeast Region. Now is the time to plan what your ship is going to do during the winter season. Here's one of the many things I did over the summer.

Recently Skipper Noel Guzman ran the 5th annual Aquatics Specialty Camp. It took place at the Ten Mile River Scout Reservation in Camp Keowa located in the town Narrowsburg, NY. I took the opportunity, like many others should, to attend this camp. There are many courses that you can take, including: snorkeling, boardsailing, and water skiing. This year there were 32 participants, ranging in ages from 14 to 19. The week started on the 10th of August with rain in the morning.



After getting checked in and taking care of all our medical information, we went down to the waterfront to take the swimmer's test. Later that evening we went through orientation, water safety courses and class selection. Early the next day we had breakfast and then went right to work with the week of activities. Within the next two days we had to get qualified in either canoeing or kayaking, because on Wednesday we would go down the Delaware River.



The weather every day had been overcast in the morning, then a passing thunderstorm in the afternoon, which was followed by the bright sun. The forecast for Wednesday said that it was going to be more of the same. So we all prepared for rain, but as the day progressed the weather only got better. The river this year was higher than normal so the current was faster as well. Just because the river was a category II we still took the precaution as if it was a type III. Noon rolled around so we found a nice rocky area where we all rafted up. We were ahead of schedule so we weren't going to rush at all. Most of us finished lunch and jumped into the river and played for a bit. Some found a nice natural water slide, which they went down over and over again. Then it was time to push off. For the rest of the way the river, was smooth riding with some rapids here and there. We went under an old stone bridge that marked that there was only a mile left. Right before the end there were rapids. Well everyone gets stuck once and guess what, it was my turn. There I was, right on top of the rock stuck out in the middle of the river. Water was pouring all around me and I was so close to flipping. Just in time Rich Auman came up and gave me a push. Then the end of the trip was right around the bend.



That night after the river trip we took the camp's war canoe across the lake for a BBQ. There we were able to fish off the dock, chill out, or play some volleyball. For dinner we had a typical BBQ with hamburgers, hot dogs, and ribs (those were the best). We set up a couple of games of volley ball and then it was time to get back to camp. Thursday we went to Aquahonga Pool, which had a water slide. We chilled there for a couple of hours and played dodge ball and went down the slide. On Friday we finished up what we had to do as lifeguard candidates; of the seven who started out for lifeguarding only four of us completed the certification. By mid day came the mile swim. Seven took the challenge and all of us completed it. We were Danny Choi from ship 441, James Lee from Troop 225, Chris Castellano out of Ship 30, Jacoby Miller a cadet from Crew 552, Diego Soberanis also a cadet of Crew 552, James Kreitman Troop 729, and me from Ship 110.



All in all, the week was very rewarding and everyone who participated went home with something under their belt! I recommend that if anyone wants to get anything that is aquatics related to go to Skipper Noel Guzman's Aquatics Specialty Camp next summer. The quality of the work, program and instruction is outstanding. The skills I learned as a lifeguard will last a lifetime.



(Photos courtesy of Jan Rose, Ship 460-NY)



The sun has set on the Northeast Region's SEABADGE XVIII, which was held at the United States Coast Guard Air Station at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the weekend of Friday, October 17 through Sunday, October 19, 2008. Course Director and Skipper Al Beal, Ship 40-MA, welcomed 17 participants to the program, coming from 12 ships across the country from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Colorado.

In addition to the national course curriculum, students were treated to a presentation on SEAL by 2007 graduate Amanda Ballassi, Ship 584-CT, who also assisted Chief Petty Officer Randy Rice as he demonstrated his USCG Rescue Swimmer equipment and survival gear. In recognition of the dedication and self-sacrifice shown by the corps, a \$220 donation was collected and presented to the USCG Foundation, which will be used to support families from the helicopter CG-6505 Air Crew who recently lost their lives in the line of duty off the coast of Hawaii.

Student feedback confirmed that the learning obtained from the course, plus the camaraderie shared among participants, was well worth their investment of time and energy! If you have never experienced a Seabadge weekend, or have members of your Ship who haven't, mark your calendars now for the October 2009 course and watch for future enrollment details.



Students and Staff of 2008 Seabadge 18 at the USCG Air Station Cape Cod (Photo courtesy of Noel Guzman, Ship 441 NY)

A leader leads by example, whether he intends to or not. -- Author unknown

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## New England Flotilla 2008 Rendezvous Held at the Herreshoff Museum, Bristol, R.I.

The 2008 New England Flotilla Rendezvous was held on August 1-3, 2008 at the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol R.I. There were 11 Ships present from 5 States with over 80 Sea Scouts and adults attending. Most Ships arrived on Friday evening with a few showing up on Saturday morning. Two Ships came by boat, Ship 584, Groton, CT on *Magique* and Ship 1909 from East Greenwich, RI on *Christine*. For those who came by land, tents were set up on the lawn in the shade of Bill Koch's *America 3* while some sea scouts opted to sleep on the floor of a building provided by the Museum.

Activities for the weekend included sailing on Herreshoff Buzzards Bay 12 ½'s, a guided tour of the museum and Americas Cup Hall of Fame. Some also sailed a bit on *Magique* and *Luff Me* courtesy of George Palazzo from Ship 1909. A surprise visit from a US Coast Guard 41-foot utility boat from Station Castle Hill was a big hit and many Sea Scouts got a quick cruise around the harbor aboard with the crew, who joined us for lunch.

A highlight of the weekend was evening and morning Colors done by the Sea Scouts, directed by Mate "Chief" Al Iott of *SSS Dragon* and led by New England Flotilla Bosun Rachelle "Rae" Read, it turned into an all hands evolution. The mast is huge as were the flags being raised/lowered and it took all hands, especially when we also did a dozen flags on poles down the main dock. It usually takes a museum staff person quite a while to get them all up and down. Our Sea Scouts did it very well and all were impressed by the ceremonies.



During the weekend, Regional Commodore Bob Sirhal and Flotilla Training Officer Tim Millar held an adult leader training session with VLT and SSLST

for 8 adult leaders. Skipper Marshall Parson, *SSS Dragon* and Northeast Regional Bosun Connor Rieve, Ship 110, held a Quarterdeck training session, interrupted by a large, wet and noisy thunderstorm. Also, a joint youth/adult Flotilla meeting was held under the tent, which generated many ideas for future events.

On Sunday morning, after a brief non-denominational lay service, the youth elected a new Flotilla Quarterdeck. The 2008/2009 New England Flotilla Quarterdeck: are Bosun Rae Read, *SSS Nobska*; Bosun's Mates are Amanda Ballassi, *SSS Dragon*, and Lee Morin *SSS The Maine*; and the Yeoman is Will Turner, *SSS Nobska*. We wish them well and much success.

In conclusion, everyone had a great time. Old friendships were renewed, new friendships made. And everyone left looking forward to the next event!

Respectfully submitted by Al Beal, Commodore, New England Flotilla



(Photos courtesy of Tim Millar, Ship 76-MA and Marshall Parsons, Ship 584-CT)

## **Liberty Flotilla 3rd Annual Safety-At-Sea Training US Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook, NJ \* September 27, 2008**

On a foggy September day, 75 Sea Scout youth and adults assembled at the Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook for a day of training to provide instruction on and practical application of safety procedures for situations that could be encountered at sea. After an opening ceremony led by several boatswains from the attending ships, participants were broken up into “crews” and given maps of the compound to search out their demo stations.

The first stop was at the picnic pavilion where Sea Scouts were being instructed by Coast Guard Auxiliary members about personal survival skills. Sea Scouts were trying on the bulky immersion suits, trying their ability to toss a line, practicing emergency communication skills, and learning about life preservers. Nearby was a display of pyrotechnic visual distress signals.

Another station provided familiarization with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Program. A member of the Auxiliary used a personal watercraft to illustrate the requirements for safety equipment on private boats.

A fire truck from a local community was used for familiarization with Fire Fighting Techniques. It is amazing how many different fire fighting tools are packed into a fire truck. We quickly saw that many of the techniques the land-based firemen discussed are applicable to handling fire on a boat.

What should we do when a boat is filling up with water? Panic? Two stations showed more practical solutions. The Coast Guard has portable gas engine-powered pumps that they can deliver to a vessel taking on water faster than her own pumps can handle. The Sea Scouts had the opportunity to start one of these pumps and transfer water from one barrel to another. Now they will know how to use this type of pump in a real emergency. The second part of this training involved a Damage Control Simulator. This equipment is designed to simulate leaks from the most likely locations on a boat and has pipes and partitions that can start gushing water on command. The Sea Scouts had to use rubber mats, clamps, plugs and wedges to try to stop the leaks. Of course this involves getting wet until the water flow can be stopped. The youth also learned that there are more than one way to stop a leak as long as you keep your wits.

Another stop was the Cold Water Plumbing station. This consisted of two canoes filled with water. In the water was a collection of pipes, flanges, clamps and hoses that had to be assembled and connected to a pump to simulate working in the bilge of a boat to make emergency repairs to the dewatering system. This was another chance to get wet as water was splashed about while working with various types of piping and valves. Sea Scouts created some amazing “pipe creatures” from the assorted hardware; some short, some long and gangly.

The submarine sandwiches and homemade soup served for lunch did not last long when the day's participants were given the go-ahead! But it sure made clean-up quicker and the chefs feel happy to see it all gobbled up! The instructors joined us for the meal and one highlight was an 18-year-old USCG cadet who shared what it was like to be in the service; feedback from the Sea Scouts was that they welcomed his insights.

We also had a special segment for certified Sea Scouts with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Diving Team to experience Surface Supplied Scuba. Foul weather did not hamper the enjoyment of trying a different kind of dive, entering from the boat dock, and there was the reward of finding some spoons and unbroken coffee cups and bowls in the mud. Even the station's cormorants stopped by to see what was going on.

Planning has already begun for the next Safety-at-Sea Event to be held September 26, 2009, at the same venue. Watch for more details.

Submitted by Steve Nichols (Ship 1942-VA) and Deidre Buchner (Ship 243-NJ)





(Photos courtesy Rags Buchner Ship 228-NJ, Charlie Spitz Ship 6-NJ and Noel Guzman Ship 441-NY)

# "Camp Able" Nautical Skills Training

## Teens Teaching Teens

This year's "Camp Able" was led by two outstanding SEAL Graduate 'Camp Directors' Able Sea Scouts Jessica Stevens (Ship 1942-VA) and Morgan Miller (Ship 548-MD) from 21 June to 28 June 2008. These Able Sea Scouts did an outstanding job in leading this year's effort to another super success. These young women know their nautical stuff. They also found out that being the "leader" in charge of everything, from the care and feeding of the group, to actual teaching these advanced nautical skills, is a tuff assignment. But Morgan and Jessica persevered, regrouped when necessary, and navigated us through the heat, winds, and sometimes torrential rains. Mission accomplished and *Bravo Zulu* to these two outstanding Sea Scout leaders.

Teens leading other teenagers are what this event is all about. This was the Chesapeake Flottilla's Sea Scout Ship 1942's sixth annual "Camp Able" teaching the advanced nautical skills necessary to reach the rank of Able Sea Scout. (Obviously, there are still other rank requirements to complete before becoming eligible for promotion to the Able Rank; Sea Scouts will work on those within their own Ships before and after this event.) This year, the added "win" for both Jessica and Morgan was they each had a ready classroom of students in order to meet virtually all their Quartermaster teaching requirements.

The training is conducted each summer at the Solomon's Navy Recreation Center in southern Maryland. The instruction is both classroom-based and on-the-water. Every-other-day, the entire crew of 20 Sea Scouts, who represent Ships throughout the eastern seaboard, sailed aboard S.S.S. 1942's 39-foot sloop *Koinonia*, 27-foot sloop *Endlish* and the 36-foot sloop *AL-DI-LA* in and around the Patuxent River near Solomons Island, Maryland.

The next "Camp Able" will be conducted in the same location from Tuesday morning, 23 June through Monday afternoon, 29 June 2009. Camp Directors for the 2009 offering are Able Sea Scouts Lindsey Belian (Ship 1942-VA) and Robert Marks (Ship 306-PA). For further info on the program and the nautical skills covered, check out this website, where you can sign on to attend: <http://seascout.net/chesapeake/training.htm>

Submitted by Skipper Tom Ballew, Ship 1942-VA



(Photos courtesy of Tom Ballew, Ship 1942-VA)

The national youth service initiative - **PRESERVE AMERICA'S WATERWAYS** - designed to promote more than one million community service hours protecting and preserving America's waterways now offers an on-line resource tool to manage service projects at [www.pawaterways.org](http://www.pawaterways.org). The site provides instructions and guidelines for service project entry and welcomes projects from all sectors, including public lands and marinas across the nation.



Beginning on January 1, 2009, youth groups and scout units across the nation will log into the site and adopt projects that have been put forth. This on-line tool will help to manage all aspects of the initiative and is one of the most comprehensive resource sites of its kind. For more information about the Preserve America's Waterways Initiative, please contact the National Youth Marine Alliance (NYMA) at [info@goblue4kids.org](mailto:info@goblue4kids.org).

NYMA is the leading association representing a broad group of organizations that have a mission of connecting kids to activities, in, on and under the water. NYMA member organizations have a direct impact on more than 15 million young people in the United States. Through its members, NYMA is dedicated to providing all children with access to water based educational and recreational opportunities to insure that children are gaining a better appreciation and a pathway to safely and responsibly participate in the outdoor lifestyle while encouraging good stewardship of our environment now and in the future.

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CHART YOUR COURSE

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 28, 2009**, and the port of call again is the Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport, New Jersey.

The theme this year is: **Adventure on every heading!**

The Boarding Manual has been posted on the NER website at: http://neregion.seascout.org/program_and_communications/ner_boh.html. We are looking forward to another great RBOH this year. Please plan to participate and rendezvous with member Ships from around the NER. All the forms you need to register are included in the Boarding Manual.

Hope to see you all there!

Deidre Buchner, RBOH Committee Chair
deidre.buchner@prudential.com

Beth Parks, RBOH Registrar
elizabeth.parks@stryker.com

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**The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, and the realist adjusts the sails.**

-- William Arthur Ward

# JUST FOR FUN...

## ONE AND ONLY

The word YACHT is hidden in the diagram only once. It will read in a straight line forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| A | T | A | Y | T | H | H | Y | T | Y | C | C |
| A | H | T | A | A | C | A | C | A | C | A | T |
| A | Y | T | T | H | H | Y | Y | A | A | Y | A |
| H | A | T | T | Y | C | Y | A | Y | Y | A | H |
| A | Y | H | A | T | C | Y | T | A | Y | A | Y |
| H | A | C | T | T | H | T | A | T | A | T | H |
| T | A | H | T | A | Y | H | T | C | A | T | A |
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## HOW MANY?

Can you find the word YACHT hidden in this diagram 29 times? Its letters read in a straight line forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| T | H | C | A | Y | Y | C | Y | H | C | T | Y |
| H | C | T | H | C | A | Y | H | A | C | A | Y |
| C | A | T | Y | A | C | H | T | T | C | A | Y |
| A | Y | T | Y | Y | H | T | A | H | C | H | Y |
| Y | T | T | A | T | T | H | T | H | Y | C | T |
| Y | A | C | H | T | H | C | T | H | A | H | H |
| T | H | C | H | C | C | A | T | H | C | A | Y |
| T | A | T | H | C | A | Y | Y | A | H | A | C |
| Y | A | C | H | T | Y | Y | Y | Y | T | Y | Y |

Good luck!! ((Puzzles courtesy of [www.pennypress.com](http://www.pennypress.com) "Penny Press Means Puzzle Pleasure"))



# Happy Holidays



From the Staff of THE TELEGRAPH

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Watch for our next issue: Winter 2009, Vol.13 No.1, to be released in the first quarter of the new year. Please submit any newsworthy items to the Editor before January 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.