

HB – Lite

Issue No. 2 – November 2017

Note from the Commander. *** I began Issue No. 1 with a plea for volunteers to produce and distribute a “real” newsletter again. I am disappointed to tell you that nobody has responded yet. Please contact me (alex_pszenny@my.uri.edu) if you are able and willing to serve in this role. The next *HB-Lite* is currently planned for mid-February. *** Squadron membership continues to decline. As of November 1st we numbered 157, a new record low. Again I ask everyone to pitch in and help recruit new members and retain existing ones. *** On a more positive note I am pleased to inform that Louis Schoenthal, AP, has agreed to serve as Assistant Treasurer pending being elected. Per our by-laws, the Executive Committee has authorized a special election for this purpose to be held during the business portion of the December 6th members’ meeting. *** I am also pleased to announce that distinguished speakers have agreed to present to us next month and in January. Please reserve the dates below in yours calendars!

Calendar.

Dec 6th: Members’ meeting, 6:30 pm, JYC Ballroom
Jan 3rd: Members’ meeting, 6:30 pm, JYC Ballroom
Feb 7th: Executive Committee meeting, 7 pm, JYC Wardroom
Mar 7th: Annual Meeting and Change-of-Watch, 6:30 pm, JYC Ballroom
Mar 24th: D12 Spring Conference, location & program TBD

December 6th members’ meeting. 6:30 pm start at Jubilee Yacht Club. Supper will be lasagna and salad provided by P/D/C Steve Jerome. (Thanks Steve!!) Dessert donations are welcome. A new “football squares” game will be conducted. The winner will take home a Schooner *Adventure* Family Membership, actual value \$180. \$2 per square! Proceeds will benefit the squadron. Guest speaker will be Salem Harbormaster Capt. Bill McHugh who will present: “Sharing Salem Sound: Keeping Recreational Mariners Informed and Safe as Our Waterfront Develops”. For Capt. McHugh’s biographical sketch look under “Meetings & Events” on the squadron web site (beverly-usps.org). Business meeting items will include election of Assistant Treasurer, discussion of proposal to change the squadron’s name, future certified ABC instructor and Vessel Safety Examiner needs; and more. Questions or comments on the agenda may be sent to alex_pszenny@my.uri.edu.

January 3rd members’ meeting. Volunteers are needed to provide supper. Contact Lt/C Ray Tilton (pangea36@gmail.com) before Christmas if you are able and willing to do this. Guest speaker will be Peter Shelley of the Conservation Law Foundation who will present “The Gulf of Maine’s Challenging Future in a Time of Rapid Climate Change.” For Mr. Shelley’s biographical sketch look under “Meetings & Events” on the squadron web site. Other details for this meeting are TBD and will be posted on the Meetings & Events page next month.

Spring course lineup. ABC courses will be offered in at least three locations next spring: Gloucester, Salem and Marblehead. The Gloucester and Salem courses will start in late Febru-

ary or early March. The Marblehead course will start in April or May. Additional classes may be offered in Hamilton/Wenham and Beverly to meet additional demand. We also are planning to offer at least one Advanced Course next spring. If you or anyone you know is interested in Engine Maintenance, Sail Trim, Weather, and/or Seamanship, contact our SEO, Lt/C Walter Riley (rileyfin@shore.net), to express interest in any of the above offerings. Full details for 2018 spring courses should be available in December via the squadron education page: <https://www.beverly-usps.org/courses.html>.

Recruiting/Retention update. As noted above, the encouraging membership gain of last spring was erased over the summer. As of November 1st squadron active membership numbered 157, down from 160 on March 1st. In contrast, membership nationally ticked up this year for the first time in 15 years. *Everyone's* help is needed to attract new members and to develop and promote squadron activities that will encourage current members to renew. Please contact the Commander (alex_pszenny@my.uri.edu) or Membership Chair (jackfreed@comcast.net) with your ideas and offers to help.

Kidde Fire Extinguisher recall. Kidde, the world's largest manufacturer of fire safety equipment, recently issued a recall notice for over 40 million fire extinguishers including some models that are U.S. Coast Guard-approved and common on recreational boats. Recalled units will be replaced by the manufacturer free of charge. For details see: <https://inmarmarketaction.com/kidde/Kidde284US/>

Vessel Safety Check season a success. 2017 was another record year for squadron safety examinations! Our examiners completed a total of 87 VSC's during the season that officially ended on October 31st. Hats off to our "Super Six" examiners: Gerry Clarke, Jack Reed, Walter Riley, Dick Salter, Skip Whittaker, and Elizabeth Wolfe. Anyone wishing to be trained and certified as a Vessel Safety Examiner should contact Lt/C Walter Riley (rileyfin@shore.net).

Jump Start — Hands-on training for new boat owners. Do you know someone with a new boat who needs some help learning how to handle it? The Boat Operator Certification/On Water Training Committee has released "Jump Start", a new program for one-on-one training sessions customized to meet individual boater's needs. No certification or license is required. The program is free and can be a great member benefit and new member recruitment tool. The squadron Executive Committee would like to try out this program during 2018. Lt/C Ray Tilton is looking into program details. As with other squadron educational activities, volunteers will be needed to make it work. If you are potentially interested in hands-on training, as either a trainer or as a "customer", please contact Ray (pangea36@gmail.com).

Another dues increase. At its September meeting in Dallas the USPS Governing Board adopted a motion approving a \$2 dues increase for single active members and a \$3 increase for family units effective December 1st, 2017. District and Squadron dues portions are unchanged. New total dues rate for a regular active member will be \$72.00. The rate for family units headed by a regular active member will be \$108. Full minutes of the GB meeting are at: <http://www.usps.org/php/DHinders/natsec/minutes.php>.