



Commander ERNIE KLOPPING's Message:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope your holidays were joyous and peaceful, in spite of the blizzard. The snow changed some of our plans, delayed some of our flights and almost broke the backs, and it's still early in the season! The December holidays are always hectic and even though we feel we'll never get through them, we all do and reach the new year with new enthusiasm, new energy, new goals. This newness is difficult to conjure up sometimes in the dead of winter with long nights and short days, but now we are in the downhill slide to spring.

To help inspire the newness let's think about the auction and the picnic and our anticipated boating adventures. Remember our next meeting at the Poughkeepsie Grand. The dress is uniform A or proper attire. There is undercover parking available, so come out for some New Year inspiration and camaraderie.

Cdr. Ernie Klopping AP



SANTA ARRIVES at the Holiday Party



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JANUARY 2003

No 469

The foghorn

Newsletter of the
**MID-HUDSON POWER
SQUADRON**
A UNIT OF THE
**UNITED STATES
POWER SQUADRONS**

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THE JANUARY MEMBER MEETING

Hi Fellow MHPS Member,

The January Member Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening January 15, 2003. All the info is below. Please take a moment to RSVP
THANK YOU.

Will be held on: Wednesday January 15, 2003
1830 to 1930 Social Hour
1930 to ???? Dinner/meeting

At; The Poughkeepsie Grand
40 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Menu:
Fruit Cup
Caesar Salad
Entree - Chicken Francoise
Desert (Ice Cream) w/Coffee or Tea

Price including Tip: \$22.00
Please pay Lt/C Richard Winchell, SN

Please RSVP to <jimsilver@att.net>
or call 800-428-3301 (M-F 0800-1700)
or call 845-877-4777 (0800-2200)

Mid-Hudson Power Squadron Schedule

January

8 Excom at Foster's

15 Member Meeting at Poughkeepsie Grand

February

12 Excom at Cosmo's

21 Member Meeting at Fred's House

Mid-Hudson Power Squadron Bridge

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Who are these two cutups?

MHPS EDUCATION HAPPININGS

By SEO Lt.C Dick Coulter, P

The next **Boating Safety Cours** is being advertised as follows:

PUBLIC BOATING COURSE.

Boat handling, seamanship, piloting, safety and more! Class will be on Thursday evenings, from 7 to 9, beginning February 13 and running for 8 weeks. Sail and power boating for adults and teenagers. Cost of book and plotting kit is \$53. Classes to be held at **Rogers Point Boating Association**, Hyde Park, NY. For information or to register, call Debi Maloney at 845-452-5245 or Fred Mangelsdorf at 845-227-5230.

There are currently about seven students taking the **Instructor Development** Course that meets in the Highland Middle School on Thursday nights. The students are in the process of giving their ten and fifteen minute presentations.

David Rosenthal completed a self study of **Sail 101**, took the exam and passed. Also, George Danko passed the Weather Exam. Congratulations to both.

Three members took final exam for **Seamanship**. Everyone passed. Pat Smalley **scored 100 on the examination**. Congratulations, Pat!!! Both Michele Tarsa and Kent Calhoun passed the exam. We also congratulate them both.

The **Piloting Class** taught by John Kwak is ready to take the final exam. We hope all goes well for all of the students.

A new **Piloting Class** will start on Tuesday, February 4, at the Highland Middle School. There are no prerequisites for this class. The class will start at 1900 (7 pm). The class usually runs for eight weeks. Anyone who wishes to attend this class "please" get in touch with Dick Winchel at (845) 691-7606 ASAP so that we can order enough manuals.

Most of the original students in the **Advanced Piloting** course are still hanging in there. It is Exam time, so wish them all "good luck".

MHPS

SAFETY CORNER:

TV ANTENNAS AND GPS DON'T MIX

By Jim Smith, S

In November 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Communications Commission issued a warning that some "amplified" boat TV antennas are creating interference with GPS signals. These antennas basically cause "operational degradation" for GPS receivers. What happens? You might either completely lose the satellite signals or your unit might display completely inaccurate position information or an excessive speed reading. Don't flatter yourself, most sailboats don't make 27 knots. Note the warning also includes electronic charting systems that rely on solid GPS data.

This interference is not just limited to your boat. USCG reports cite GPS malfunctions up to 2,000 feet away from another vessel using one of these TV antennas.

What should you do? Sometimes as the interference source becomes more distant, your GPS unit will self-correct. In other instances you may have to reset your GPS. If you have an amplified TV antenna on your boat, try powering it down and check the impact on the GPS readings. This would indicate your antenna is a likely source. If that's the case, you may wish to contact the antenna manufacturer.

If your antenna is not the source, and the interference is constant, you might wish to contact the USCG watch stander at nisws@navcen.uscg.mil.

The units identified by the authorities include: Tandy Mini State Electronic Amplified VHF/UHF, Radio Shack Long Range Amplified Omni Directional TV Antenna, and several Shakespeare models.

Besides, you shouldn't be watching TV and operating your vessel anyway, unless, of course, Law & Order is on. In that case, just set the anchor.

END



Rose Taft and Jim Smith at the Holiday Party

Hold On to Your Good Old Boat

by Jim Smith, S

According to the latest numbers released by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) new boat sales have been dropping. Based on a twelve-month rolling average, the October 2002 (latest available) numbers show the average number of units sold is down 3.4% and the wholesale dollar sales down 2.7%. Just a reflection of the down economy you say? There's more to it.

When unit sales drop and average dollar sales hold reasonably close or increase, it's a sign of a constricting market. Both power and sailboat builders are moving toward fewer but higher markup units, generally with greater LOA.

For example, the base price of a new 30' 6" , Grady-White with twin 250 outboards is currently listed at about \$184, 500. A Four Winns 24' ranges in the mid-\$40k area. A 2002 Catalina 36 is about \$125k. or you can buy a 10 year old version of the same boat at about half the price.

It's hardly surprising that the used boat market is healthy. So, while a boat is seldom an investment, it seems better to put money into a good old boat rather than buying a new one. If you just love the smell of a new boat, just polish the old one and crack open a can of resin. This provides the same "rush" but is much easier on the wallet.

END

Information Technology

A feature presented each month for your personal computer
Happy New Year to all MHPS members and
all readers of the FOGHORN.

I hope everyone had a safe and prosperous
Christmas and got a brand new personal
computer from Santa.

This month let us talk about keeping your machine clutter
free. Many times I get computer users that ask me why their
computer is so slow. It wasn't always like this, it just seems
that lately, it takes forever to download anything from the
internet. Sound familiar ?

Take a look at your cache (pronounced cash but does not
mean money). Is it full ? Is it configured correctly ? The
default settings that come from the factory are not adequate.
Here is how to check and adjust the settings. These
instructions are the same for Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, and
XP, using a recent version of Internet Explorer.

Lets stop here and say that if you do not have the latest
version (6.0.xxxx.xxxxIS) go to Microsoft.com or Internet
Explorer Homepage or use the Windows Update option
located on the start button (click on start, it will be the top
item) and download/install. If you are not sure what version
you have, click on " help " in an open Internet Explorer
window then click on " about Internet Explorer ." You will
have all the information you need.

Go to your start button, settings, control panel and find
something called Internet Options. You can also do this
directly in Internet Explorer. If you are using Netscape, you
will want to go to Edit, preferences, category(advanced),
click on the + sign and then click
on cache. Netscape will be covered more in detail next time
or you can Email me for specific concerns.

The Internet Options icon will open up a box titled Internet
Properties. The middle of this box shows something called
Temporary Internet Files. These files are automatically saved
by your computer and contain every web site you have ever
visited. Frightening, isn't it ? The Temporary Internet File is
slowing down your computer. Its function is to allow you
faster access to previously accessed web pages and this is
O.K. for today, but do you really need a file of a site that you
visited last week or last year ? (I once cleaned out a
temporary internet files cache for someone and ended up
restoring 800 MB of storage space....that's 800,000,000 x 8
bits of wasted space holding junk).

O.K. You have three buttons under this option. The one on
the right says "delete cookies." What is a cookie ?
A cookie is a text-only string that is entered into the cache or
memory of your browser. In this case Internet Explorer or
Netscape. A website sets the value of this variable and if the
cookie is meant to last longer than your browsing session, it
is saved. And you do not even know it.

Why do websites use cookies ?

Many reasons from personalization of information to help
with on-line sales or services or to gather information.
Programmers use cookies to keep website information up-to-
date relevant to your interests, and are also used to store

personal data that you have stored on a site, passwords for
quick logons, for example. When your machine sends a
cookie to a website, it tells the site that you have been there
before.

Enough about cookies, they will not harm you but they do
take up space. If you delete them, you will have to re-enter
information and, of course, create another cookie. I delete
them regularly, but this decision is yours to make. I prefer to
buy my cookies each year from the Girl Scouts.

The next box for your perusal is labeled " delete files ." These
are the temporary internet files, we spoke of before. You want
to clean up your machine ? Then you want to delete these files.
When you click on " delete files " a pop-up box will show up
and ask you if you want to delete these files and there will be
an option to " delete all offline content." Unless you have set
up your machine to " work offline" it is O.K. to delete offline
content (more about offline content in a future article). If
in doubt, leave this box unchecked and click O.K.

Finally, (bear with me..... we are coming to the end)
there is the third box labeled " settings ." Click this box and
a new box will open called " settings." The first option decides
how your browser checks for newer versions of a web page. I
use the first item titled " Every visit to the page." Using this
option will ensure that each time you access a web page it
will automatically update to the latest page.

The next item allows you to select how much hard disk space
to allow your computer to use for storing temporary internet
files. Set this value higher than the default. The slide bar
will show you your maximum allowed value. I use a value close
to the size of hard disk " C " and allows your browser plenty
of room to use for storage. If you use a small amount, your
cache will fill up and slow things down, since now the cache
has to erase previous files, first before adding new ones.

The last three buttons allow you to see what files are stored
(view files), View objects (cookies) and allows you to
move these files elsewhere if you really want to save them.
The History option accesses a folder which stores web site
addresses or URL's. This allows you to use the History link
on your Internet Explorer main page to access pages without
retyping or using the Favorites key. I do not need to save any
website history beyond today, so I set this value to " 0 "
When you are finished, click O.K. and close everything.

If you follow these instructions you will be running a cleaner
machine and you will notice the difference when you are
surfing the internet. Email me with your comments or
questions.

Next month, we'll go into a little more detail on configuring
the Netscape browser and we will discuss a major hardware
issue for making your machine run faster. R A M.



Two IT Pixies at Work?

DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING PHOTOS

We were blessed by all who attended, especially by the presence of 4 members of the DISTRICT 2 BRIDGE, D/C Wayne Garnsey, EXEC. Susan Darcy, AO John Supple, & SECY. Fred Mangelsdorf



A large and happy crowd at the party



Stu Steagall, Susan Darcy? and John Supple



Cdr Eirnie Klopping Pat Smalley and Guest



Deborah and Kevin Maloney



Betty Gladstone & Jan and Jim Silver enjoying.



Our Illustrious District Commander Wayne Garnsey holding forth.