



**Commander ERNIE KLOPPING's Message:**

This past year has been a memorable year in my life. The privilege of being Commander has revealed to me the concerted effort of so many people to make this organization the effective and vibrant squadron it is. Let me thank all of you who have supported me this past year and request that you extend this same assistance to the incoming bridge.

February was an eventful month for the Mid-Hudson Power Squadron. Several courses were begun, the Basic Boating Course with thirty-nine students enrolled and a new Piloting Course. Our member meeting for February was held at the home of Fred Mangelsdorf. Fred is a great host and everyone had a wonderful time with friends and desserts. This is an annual event we all look forward to. Now that March has arrived, we are preparing for the member meeting which is also the Change of Watch.

I look forward to seeing you at the Change of Watch. Uniform A or proper attire is requested. Regards,

Cdr. Ernie Klopping AP



**MARINE AUCTION ON APRIL 25**  
**At the St. James Church in Hyde Park.**  
**See enclosed brochure.**



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MARCH 2003

No 471

# The foghorn

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

## THE MARCH MEMBER MEETING, COW

Fellow MHPS Members,  
The March Member Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening March 19, 2003. As this is our Change of Watch, please try to attend this important event.

To be held on: Wednesday March 19, 2003  
1830 to 1930 Social Hour  
1930 to ??? Dinner/meeting

Location:

Greenbaum & Gilhooley's  
1379 Route 9, Wappinger's Falls, NY 12590  
(Across from B.J.'s)

Menu:

Soup & Salad

Entree choices are: 1. Chicken Marsala  
2. Prime Rib  
3. Salmon

Potato & Vegetable

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](mailto:jimsilver@att.net)>

or call 800-428-3301 (M-F 0800-1700)

or call 845-877-4777 (0800-2200)

See you at the Meeting, Jim

## Mid-Hudson Power Squadron

### Schedule

March 12, Excom will be held at Easy Street Café in Hyde Park.

March 19, Change of Watch (COW) at Greenbaum & Gilhooley's, in Wappingers Falls.

April, 12 Marine Auction, at St James Church, Hyde Park see enclosed brochure.

### Mid-Hudson Power Squadron Bridge

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The Mid Hudson Power Squadron web site is at [www.midhudsonpowersquadron.com](http://www.midhudsonpowersquadron.com)

Where you can get all the information about the Squadron.



Figure 1, "We are still solvent"



Figure 2, An attentive group of members.



Figure 3, February's Meeting at Fred's House.



Figure 4, Two lively discussions.

## MHPS EDUCATION HAPPININGS

By SEO Lt.C Dick Coulter, P  
PUBLIC BOATING COURSE.

The Boating Class started Thursday evening, February 13, from 1900 to 2100, and will run for 8 weeks. Classes are held at **Rogers Point Boating Association**, Hyde Park, NY. There are currently 41 students. This is a great opportunity to increase the boating safety awareness for these students, and possibly attract some new members.

The MHPS will run a "fast track" Boating Safety Course starting Monday, April 14, to be held at Certified Marine on Rondout Creek. The classes will be held for three hours, from 6:30pm to 9:30, for three weeks, on consecutive Mondays and Thursdays each week, until the last class on Thursday, May 1.

Four students took the **Instructor Development** Course have met the presentation requirements and have taken the final examination. One student will complete his presentations shortly, then take the exam.

The **Piloting Class** taught by Dick Winchell started on Tuesday, February 4, at the Highland Middle School. The class usually runs for eight weeks. There are currently eight students taking the course.

Four students in the **Advanced Piloting** course took the closed book final exam Friday night, January 24; three turned in the open book part. The fourth student has since taken the open book part later. We all await the results.

Ed Weber will teach a **Cruise Planning** Course to start on Tuesday, March 25, at the Marlboro Yacht Club, if enough requests are received before then (there are three requests as of February 27). Please contact Ed Weber at (845) 462-2041 or at EVWeber@aol.com if interested.

See the February Foghorn for descriptions of the six **USPS Elective Courses**, of which three are required for the Education Achievement Award, and all are required for the Education Proficiency Award. Any member of the Mid Hudson Squadron interested in attending a course on the six topics should contact the SEO, Dick Coulter at (845) 462-7219 or at dick\_coulter@compuserve.com.

## FOR SALE ITEMS

We will insert in the FogHorn boating items for sale that Members of MHPS wish to sell.  
**We have three boats for sale in the MHPS:**

### #1 "NETOP" IS FOR SALE

"NETOP" a classic Allied Luders is for sale. She is fully equipped for cruising and storage. Her price is \$33,000. She is stored at White's Hudson River Marina, 15 Point Street, New Hamburg, N.Y. Tel (845) 297-8530.

For a detailed description, call her owner:

P/C Robert W. Staats, JN  
59 Miller Hill Drive  
Lagrangeville, N.Y. 12540  
Tel. (845) 223-5995

### #2

Your editor is selling his beloved MARK TWAIN a 1969 Cal 2-30 Sailboat, 30' long, Atomic 4 gas engine, fully operational and can be seen at KPBA. Asking price is \$15,000 but any reasonable offer will be considered. We are purchasing a larger sailboat for extensive cruising. Call John C. Kwak at 255-5318 or email [jckwak@hvi.net](mailto:jckwak@hvi.net) for sales brochure.

### #3

Ed Metivier is selling his 1971 McGregor Venture. He is asking \$5,000.

It has

1. New Paint and Varnish
2. New roller furling for jib
3. 8 hp Johnson outboard with gas tank
4. Two, 8lb anchors with rode
5. VHS radio
6. Shore line trailer

and many more new items. This is an excellent, unsinkable, shallow water sailboat, with center board. Please call Ed at 978-422-2921 or email [TinCanSailorEd@aol.com](mailto:TinCanSailorEd@aol.com)

You can see that we have a full range of boats even if these all happen to be sailboats.

# Information Technology

By Lt/C George Danko, P

Since Spring is around the corner, lets talk spring cleaning. We won't go into detail at this time on anything that involves opening the case. We will do that in detail in a later article. So lets clean up your hard drive.

What is a hard drive?

Glad you asked,in simple terms, your hard drive is a mechanical device with moving parts such as rotating platters and magnetic read heads attached to arms and a lot of electronics packed into an air tight case around 5 3/4 in X 3 3/4 X 1 in size. By the way, speeds inside the case between the rotating platters and the read arms can be up to 170 mph. The drive lives inside your computer case and talks to the outside world through a ribbon data cable, which attaches to your system board.

The hard drive is the main storage device for your computer. It stores your operating system (Windows), all your software. Anytime you save anything you usually store it on your hard drive. The exception, of course, would be if you save to a floppy disc or write a compact disc rom (CD-ROM). Your machine, during normal operation, also automatically saves things. Guess where they are saved, on your hard drive, without your knowledge or intervention. This is the stuff that we need to clean out.

Care of your hard drive is important. Remember it is a mechanical device, so it is much, much slower than most of your other computer components. Currently, top speed for access is around 9 ms (that's 9 milliseconds, 1 ms = 1/1000 second) and data transfer is around 133 MB/second tops (megabytes/second ). These speeds seem fast for you but keep in mind that your processor clock is beating somewhere between 500 Mhz and 2000 MHZ (million cycles per second) and your random access memory ( RAM ) is between 66 and 240 MHZ. Take an average....say 1000 MHZ and convert to time.....that is 1 billionth of a second and 200 MHZ is a slow 5 billionths of a second, per clock cycle.....anyway as you can see the operating time difference between your hard drive and other components is tremendous.

Now what to do.....OK, I hope we have established a situation where we understand the need to lessen the load on the hard drive. To make it un-necessary to work so hard, to make it function smoother and faster.

Not only now, but once a month do this:

Double click on " My Computer " from the desktop. This will let windows explorer (not Internet Explorer....PLEASE do not confuse them ) open a new window. This window will display your hard drive as " C " drive. Other drives such as floppy " A " and CDROM " D " will appear as well as folder icons for printers, control panel, dial up networking and scheduled tasks. You want the " C " drive. Right click and a drop down menu appears, the word " open " will be on top the " properties " at the bottom. Move your mouse pointer to " properties " and left click. The properties box will open. This box gives you three options, (general, tools, and sharing),you want "general" to start. Notice towards the

bottom is a tab that says disk cleanup. Click this tab, another box opens with disk cleanup for " C ".....check all boxes.

Temporary Internet Files, Downloaded program Files, Recycle Bin, Temporary files. If you are unsure whether to check a box, assuming that you may want to keep certain files, then leave that box unchecked. I personally check them all. Any files that I need to keep are saved elsewhere.

When you are ready click OK....you will be asked if you want to delete files.....click yes.....your hard drive has now been cleaned.

Next step, back on the properties box, click on tools. You will be given three options. We are going to use the top one.....Error checking status...and the bottom one..defragmentation status.

Lets do error checking first.....click Check Now.....a program called scan disk will open and ask you to choose standard or thorough.....a brief description of each is provided at the check mark.

I use " thorough " and you should too especially if this has never been done before..click the box that asks you to automatically fix errors....ignore the advanced properties tab, we are using default values .....click start and you are in business. A scan disk check should take a few minutes and any errors will be fixed and Windows will detail any changes made.

The last item on our agenda is the use of defragmentation. When your hard drive stores data it uses a small piece of space called a sector. If the data does not fill the sector, the left over space is ignored and the next time data is stored, windows opens a new sector.

Over a period of time, your hard drive has a lot of partially filled sectors. If your drive is approaching full, windows goes back and uses these spaces as necessary to continue storing data. Since much data is duplicated in various programs ( in other words....many programs use common codes) windows may have to look in several places on your drive for data. This takes time and is why your machine slows down.

What defragmentation does is read all the data and moves common pieces together and squeezes everything to one area. Windows now does not have to ask your drive to look all over the place to find data.....click defrag now and the program will start. It may take a while, perhaps several attempts to complete, if it is the first time.

Thats it.....upon successful completion of these simple operations, your machine should run faster and live longer.

Any problems, concerns, questions ? I am always at your service.....

See you at the Change of Watch on the 19th.....please do not forget to aim your mouse pointer at.....  
<http://www.midhudsonpowersquadron.com>

Lt/C George Danko  
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10 March 2003