

## Message from Commander Danko:

With spring here, at last, and good weather, finally, coming our way, its time to think about what we do...boating.

Many marinas already have docks in the water, are cleaning up the grounds and are getting ready for a great boating season. We should do the same. Get out the checklist and review your safety equipment. Make sure your boat is equipped with proper gear. PFD's must be in good shape and adequate for all persons aboard. Fire fighting equipment should be up to date and first aid kits restocked with proper supplies. Have a very safe and enjoyable boating season and ask that guy docked next to you if he has ever taken a boating safety class.

The District 2 Spring Conference held recently and hosted by MHPS was a huge success due to the awesome efforts of our members. I have received many comments from our guests praising our teamwork and commitment. Congratulations on a fine job.

We are not finished, however, as a much more challenging job awaits ahead. The matter of membership will always be an action item. At the Change of Watch, I asked everyone to recruit one new member this year. If we do this, our membership will double. The boaters are out there and they need safety classes, vessel checks, a pitch and an invitation to one of our member meetings.

Finally, please do not forget our basic responsibility to ourselves and others. We are safe boating through education and if we do not learn then we cannot teach others. Please consider taking one of our squadron courses yourself and be a better boater.

Thank you for listening, and invite a guest,

Cdr. George Danko



R.

April 2005

No 493

# The foghorn

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

**Annual Squadron Marine  
Auction & April Member Meeting  
on April 16, 2005.**

The auction will be held at St. James Church opposite the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park.

Please bring items to be donated the day of the auction.

Optional covered dish supper at 5PM.

Monthly general meeting at 6PM.

Auction will start at 7 PM.

Doors will be open at 1 PM for anyone wishing to help get the auction together.

Your help is what makes this event happen.

Ask for gift certificates from businesses, and restaurants.

Solicit your marina for a donation.

Questions, contact Don. Gladstone,  
Auction Chairman at 485-5204,  
evenings 5-9 PM.

## MidHudson Power Squadron Bridge

Commander

Cdr. George Danko, AP

845-724-3702, [dankogeorg@aol.com](mailto:dankogeorg@aol.com)

Executive Officer

Lt. Cdr. James R. Smith, P

845-255-0160, [JRSATV@aol.com](mailto:JRSATV@aol.com)

Squadron Education Officer (SEO)

Lt. Cdr. Richard Winchell, SN

845-691-7606, [n2exv@hvi.net](mailto:n2exv@hvi.net).

Assistant Squadron Education Officer (ASEO)

1st Lt. Michelle L. Tarsa

845-229-2572,

Administrative Officer

Lt. Cdr. Patricia K. Smalley, P

845-889-4242, [Lymey2@aol.com](mailto:Lymey2@aol.com)

Secretary

Lt. Cdr. Jerry Toepfer, AP

845-462-1786 [Jerry.Toepfer@verizon.net](mailto:Jerry.Toepfer@verizon.net)

Treasurer

Lt. Cdr. Janice M. Silver, P

845-877-4777, [jansilver@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jansilver@worldnet.att.net)

Your Editor can be reached at:

P/C John C. Kwak, AP

240 Sand Hill Rd

Gardiner NY 12525

845-255-5318, [jckwak@earthlink.net](mailto:jckwak@earthlink.net)

### WEB SITE

The Mid Hudson Power Squadron web site is at

[www.midhudsonpowersquadron.com](http://www.midhudsonpowersquadron.com)

This is where you can get all the information about the Squadron.

Web Master, Dave Rosenthal SN

[darosent@optonline.net](mailto:darosent@optonline.net)



### SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Toepfer, Jerry L.	4/3
Suessle, Gladys M.	4/4
Salem, Susan C.	4/4
Enkler, John J.	4/14
Jones, Fred W.	4/22
Chernowski, Judy A.	4/27
Rosenthal, David A.	4/29
Broadbent, Craig W.	4/29

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Salem, Susan C.	4/1/1996
Gladstone, Donald	4/6/1961
Enkler, John J.	4/7/2001
Storm, Gary L.	4/17/2001
Tarsa, Michelle L.	4/7/20001
Aiello, Joseph	4/13/2001
Winklharrer, Wolfgang G.	4/15/1999
Coulter Jr., Homer P.	4/15/2000
Berwick, Tracy L.	4/17/2002
Berwick, Albert S.	4/17/2002
Nelson, Penny A.	4/17/2002
Nelson, Scott F.	4/17/2002
Seeley, Virginia L.	4/17/2002
Steagall, Jacquelyn	4/18/1978
Cigna, Salvatore A.	4/21/2004
Tully, Robert A.	4/22/1980
Rivenburgh, Paul	4/22/1986
Ringwood Jr., William J.	4/27/2001
Alexanderson, Carl I.	4/28/1987
Croatto, Alberto G.	4/28/1987

List by Jan Silver

Answer to the NautiBender: A pier extends perpendicularly into the water. A wharf is parallel to the shore and a dock is the area of water in which a vessel lies when made fast. When a vessel is hauled out of the water the area around it becomes a dry-dock.

## Mid-Hudson Education Program

### SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION

Our new Boating Course started on March 24 at Haviland Middle School with 19 students. Thanks to the five members that were there to assist all went well. Classes continue on April 7th, and April 14 etc 7 to 9 PM.

News from the District Educational meeting at the District Conference is that there will be major changes in the boating course for 2006. All for the better. Details will be released as they become available but one thing is firm. To TEACH the boating course in 2006 you must be a "certified instructor".

The Instructor Development course will be starting in October under the leadership of Ed Weber. We need instructors and this is the way to begin.

Many Squadrons are now giving the Boat Smart course. This course is an eight hour course and passing the exam qualifies the student for USPS membership (if other qualifications are met).

Only partially an educational item is the planned "Cruise to Athens" (New York that is) on July 16th. Get your GPS tuned up so you can find where the goodies are hidden. It's called "Geocaching" the new sport that combines high tech with treasure hunting.

Your NautiBender this month asks you "What is the difference between a pier a wharf and a dock?"

(Answer to be found elsewhere in this issue).

SEO Dick Winchell, 845-691-7606  
[n2exv@hvi.net](mailto:n2exv@hvi.net)

ASEO Michele Tarsa, 845-229-2572

## ECO-SAFETY CORNER: CHINESE MITTEN CRAB A "LUSTY CRUSTY" HEADS FOR RIVER

By J. R. Smith

At first I was thinking of all sorts of cute headlines but this could be a very serious threat. Chinese mitten crabs have been spotted in the St. Lawrence River and the Hudson is one of four US Rivers ranked as highly vulnerable to invasion according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

They first appeared in Europe in the early 1900s and in our Pacific northwest in the early 1990s. Like the zebra mussels, these bad boys have the power to change ecosystems. It's so serious there even wanted posters out in Oregon (see below).

Chinese mitten crabs live in fresh water for 2 to 3 years. When they become adults, the crabs migrate to brackish or saltwater in order to reproduce. And they do travel. Reports from China indicate they have been found over 750 miles up rivers from the ocean. One female is capable of producing a million eggs. Larvae live for a few months in the plankton then settle onshore in the late spring or early summer. Then they start to become unruly and head upstream and burrow in stream banks. It's this burrowing activity that causes bank erosion, as the network of *tunnels* is vast and complex. When population densities are high, they can clog water intakes, collapse stream banks and riprap, and damage fishing nets. Plus they have few natural predators.

Man is one predator. It seems that the ovaries of the female, are considered an aphrodisiac in China. The Chinese also eat the crabs. Even several biologists have suggested *eating the crabs into retreat*. But don't plan on starting a business anytime soon. It's currently illegal to import them in New York.

The fuzz on the claws is how they got their name.  
By Jim Smith, P

**MID-HUDSON POWER SQUADRON**



**Figure 1, P/C Jim Silver and supporting Actors**

**GHANCE OF WATCH**



**Figure 4, The OATH OF OFFICE for our new COMMANDER George Danko**



**Figure 2, Fred Approves**



**Figure 5, The PASSING OF THE FLAGS**



**Figure 3, The FAREWELL ADDRESS**



**Figure 6, A new flag for our new Administration Officer Patricia Smalley**

**DISTRICT 2 CHANGE OF WATCH, HOSTED by**



**Figure 1, COMMANDER GEORGE DANKO WELCOMING THE ASSEMBLED GUESTS**

**MID-HUDSON POWER SQUADRON**



**Figure 4, YES FRED, IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN!**



**Figure 2, MHPS DID GET ONE AWARD, 100% participation in the education fund.**



**Figure 5, FRED MANGELSDORF TAKING THE OATH OF DISTRICT COMMANDER FROM THE CHIEF COMMANDERS REPRESENTATIVE**



**Figure 3, STU STEAGAL GIVING FRED SOME LAST ADVICE**



**Figure 6, NEW DISTRICT COMMANDER FRED GIVING THE PAST COMMANDERS FLAG TO JOHN SUPPLE**



# **the Foghorn**

Newsletter of the  
**MID-HUDSON  
POWER SQUADRON**

April 2005

No 493

R.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- April 6 Excom at Hyde Park Brewing Company 4076 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park**  
**April 16 MHPS AUCTION & APRIL MEETING at St. James Church in Hyde Park**
- August 20 Squadron Rendezvous the at the Red Hook Boat Club,.**

MID-HUDSON POWER SQUADRON  
FOGHORN EDITOR  
John C. Kwak  
240 Sand Hill Rd.  
Gardiner NY 12525