

PASSING THE WORD

FROM
THE
QUARTERDECK



DRAGON

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SEA SCOUT SHIP 584

WORD FROM THE SKIPPER

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<http://subvetsgroton.org/seascout/default.aspx>

Upcoming Events

March 09

2 Meet at Dragon's Lair QD Meeting 1830-1900/Coastal Nav Piloting 1900-2100/Rank Adv 1930-2100

9 Meet at Dragon's Lair QD Meeting 1830-1900/Coastal Nav Piloting 1900-2100/Rank Adv 1930-2100

14 New England Flotilla Meeting in MA/University of Scouting Waterbury, CT/Liberty Flotilla Training Day @ SUNY Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, NY

16 Meet at Dragon's Lair/Coastal Nav-Piloting 1900-2100/Rank Adv 1930-2100

23 Meet at Dragon's Lair/Coastal Nav-Piloting 1900-2100/Rank Adv 1930-2100

27-29 Bridge & Ball, Bridgeport, NJ

30 Fun Meet - To Be Determined

April 09

1 Sea Scout Ship Dragon Open House, Norwich Tech

6 QuarterDeck Meeting

13 Regular Meeting

20 Regular Meeting/Sea Scout Ship Dragon Open House, SUBVETS Hall

26 USPS Change of Watch Ceremony – Uniform color guard

27 Fun Meet - To Be Determined

May 09

3 John Gardner Row and Cleanup of Pine Island

4 QuarterDeck Meeting

11 Regular Meeting/USPS Boating Course 7-9p

18 Regular Meeting/USPS Boating Course 7-9p

25 Memorial Day

SKIPPER'S MESSAGE:

Quarterdeck and Crew,

We are in clear communication of our expectations.

Goals are just goals... something to shoot for - I think these goals are in our best interest for a Successful Ship.

Each goal is a sample of a real life experience for YOU. As you can see that the Bosun goals are a combination of the all Quarterdeck goals. You all support the Bosun Rosa Lott in making her successful. Someday it will be your turn. So this is NOT just about YOU.

One major goal is advancement. This year we will honor two Eagle Scouts, graduate 1-2 crew members in SEAL 2009, graduate 15 or more crew members at Camp Nautical for Rank of Ordinary, promote 5 or more crew members from Camp Able and advance a couple crew members closer to the rank of Quartermaster. Advancement is a source of pride and measure of your success in Scouting. Advancement in Sea Scouting is a measure of your nautical knowledge and your performance as a leader. I believe our success in advancement will lead to better retention of our crew with potential of increasing crew members achieving the Rank of Quartermaster in 2010.

Another goal is recruitment drive in April.

The Ship needs energy (numbers of personnel) to operate and to support this upcoming abundance of major events. From the last meetings, you know there is much more fun when there is a critical mass of youth in our Ship. You can not be leaders of nobody. We have a good program waiting to be to the advantage of. Since each year crew will be graduating from High School and leaving, we need new youth each year to keep the Ship operating. There is still too high of an attrition rate due to members moving on. We will need more members in order to maintain or increase the size of our Ship. If this - With new members, new ideas, strengths and opportunities are realized. Satisfaction is achieved when you can teach others and they appreciate what you have done for them. One thing is for sure, we need very experienced crew leaders who can set the example and care for the any new members.

Another goal is getting commitment from the crew to attend the summer activities. I need your presence. Some of the major events will be Bridge and Ball, Quarterdeck Leadership Training, SEAL 2009, Camp Nautical, and Camp Able. We will also be hosting the New England Flotilla Rendezvous in New England. This may seem daunting but most of the work has been planned and we just need the crew to participate. Once done the crew will have gained critical experience, skills and new friends. We will have shared experiences with better understanding of each other.

Why I want you to be a team..

Am I asking the questions.. how can I support the Ship? How can I make my Bosun look good? How can I achieve?

We have fair winds and following seas,
per Marshall Parsons

LIBERTY FLOTILLA – N.Y. & N.J. SEA SCOUTS, BSA

FORT SCHUYLER TRAINING DAY – SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE - SAT. 03/14/2008

WHAT: Training Day for Sea Scouts and Adult Leaders

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WHEN: Saturday March 14, 2009. 0800 – 1730 (8AM to 5:30PM)

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WHERE: SUNY Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx NY

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WHY: Training for youth in skills needed to complete Sea Scout Advancement requirements.

This event is a Practice Learning Session with lots of hands-on exercises. We strongly suggest that these are not segments for the novice, you need to know the terms; read beforehand Chapter 4 in the **Sea Scout Manual** and bring the book with you as a resource.

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COST: \$15.00 per person, covers lunch*, materials & rental fee for the classrooms. Advance Registration is required for this course by March 1, 2009 as we need to provide a final headcount to the college for lunch preparation. Send your fees (checks made payable to "Liberty Flotilla") and forms to Deidre Buchner, 512 Drake Avenue, Roselle, NJ 07203. Only paid reservations with proper documents will be considered "confirmed".

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Sea Scout only Cruise on the Mystic Whaler

WHEN: July 25-28 COST \$350 per person Leaving and Returning to New London

A two day sail will include one port of call. If we sail east, the port will probably be Block Island, RI. If we sail west, the port will probably be Shelter Island, NY.

A three day sail will include two ports of call. If we sail east, we may visit Newport and Block Island in RI. If we sail west, we may visit Sag Harbor, NY, then Block Island. This being coordinated by Ship 110 SSS Not By Bread Alone out of Bridgeport, CT.



PADI Open Water Scuba Course www.seaviewscubact.com

When: Sunday AM, August 9 through Saturday PM, August 15, 2009

Where: June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation Ashford, Connecticut

Cost: \$250 Course costs include the PADI Open water Diver Manual, mask, snorkel, boots, and fins.

Course requirements:

Read and review the Open Water Diver Manual before the course date.

Class sessions at camp to review basic knowledge and equipment basics.

Confined water sessions: the student will learn the basic skills required for certification.

Open water diving sessions: each student will have to show proficiency in the skills taught in the confined water sessions.

After completion of dives, each student will receive a PADI Jr. Open water certification card.

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Confined water sessions: the student will learn the basic skills required for certification.

Open water diving sessions: each student will have to show proficiency in the skills taught in the confined water sessions.

After completion of dives, each student will receive a PADI Jr. Open water certification card.

Schedule Monday thru Wednesday:

1:00PM to 3:00 PM.....Class Sessions, Review Book and Video

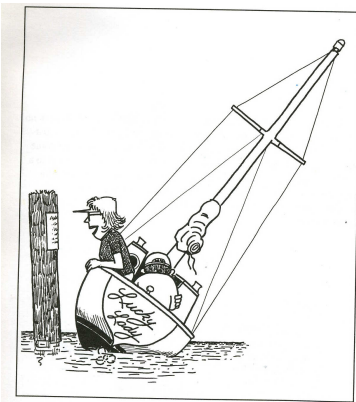
3:00PM to 5:00 PM..... Confined Water Training Exercises

Schedule Thursday and Friday:

1:00PM to 5:00 PM..... 2 Open Water Certification Dives.

More Information: See Registration and Program Guide : <http://www.jnwebster.org/venturing.html>

Contact with your interest: Skipper Marshall Parsons



"It says, 'You've run aground at high water. Have a nice day.' "

CAMP NAUTICAL AT J.N. WEBSTER

When: Sunday AM, August 9 through Saturday PM, August 15, 2009

Where: *June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation Ashford, Connecticut*

Cost: \$350.00 per Sea Scout (includes meals, 2 person tents w/cots)

Details: Camp Nautical is an opportunity for any Sea Scout attending to gain skills and experience. Advancement can be a source of pride and measure of your success in Scouting. Advancement in Sea Scouting is a measure of your nautical knowledge and your performance as a leader.

The Seamanship Program will allow you to experience most of the requirements needed for the Rank of Ordinary. With structured courses in the morning and evening you will learn about boats, marlinespike seamanship, ground tackle, piloting, communications, time, swimming, cruising, safety, galley, sailing, drill, compass, signaling, quarterdeck leadership training and ornamental rope work. You will find fun in the afternoons devoted to free time. You will graduate with a report of your accomplishments, new friends and memories to last a lifetime.

If you are in search of a variety then consider the Aquatics Program. This includes opportunities for fun and advancement in a wide variety of aquatic programs and interests.

*Lifeguard BSA *Mile Swim *Snorkeling BSA *Kayak BSA *SCUBA *Kayak Instruction *Whitewater Merit Badge *River Kayak Trip *Motor Boating Merit Badge *Rowing Merit Badge *Small-Boat Sailing Merit Badge *Swimming Merit Badge *Water Sports Merit Badge *Small Boat Handler

See Registration & Program Guide-<http://www.jnwebster.org/venturing.html>

Contact with your interest: Skipper Marshall Parsons



CAMP ABLE

When: Tuesday AM, June 23 through Monday PM, June 29, 2009

Where: Solomon's, MD

Cost: \$350.00 per Sea Scout Crewmember \$100 per Adult Mate

"*Camp Able*" is summer training week. You will be exposed to every requirement and have had a chance to do some hands on learning, hence the name of the camp. You will be taught all of the **nautical skills requirements** for the Sea Scout ABLE Rank.

Since SEAL is set aside for those that have completed their "*Ordinary*" requirements, the "*Camp Able*" learning program will help motivate you and give you the opportunity to learn the much more advanced "Able" nautical skills. This allows the rank of Quartermaster to be your next step.

Another beauty of "*Camp Able*" is it also provides a venue for if you are a top "*Able*" Sea Scout to get all your six "Quartermaster" teaching requirements completed. You can be one of those Camp Able youth instructors. This is where want-to-be Quartermasters can shine... in the running the camp. There is room for you to learn as you teach.

Typically to qualify for Camp Able, you must have the rank of Ordinary. However this year's camp is opened to all youth in our Ship. Ship 584 can bring no more than 15 youth and 4 adults. The adults will be safety observers. \$100 deposit by March 10 & all fees due by June 1.

SPRING FLING HOSTED BY SHIP 110

Ever Wonder what Venture Crews & Sea Scouts Ships in the area are like?

Join us in this "Get to Know You" Weekend filled with Team Building Games as well as camping spirit and you too will know.

April 24th – 26th 2009 - \$30 per person

Deer Lake BSA Camp - 101 Papermill Rd, Killingworth CT

Your Stay at Deer Lake Will Include:

- Sleeping in Heated Cabins
- Indoor & Outdoor Team Building Games
- Hiking & Competitive Sports
- Campfire Skits & Stories
- Sharing Responsibilities

Let us know how many in your Ship or Crew are Interested with their \$5 deposit by January 29th to reserve a spot. For more information or any questions Contact us at ship110@sbcglobal.net Jillian @ 203.837.0958 & Tina @ 203.758.6769



The Power Squadron Boating Course is being offered on Monday evenings starting May 11, 2009.

Classes will be on May 11, 18, June 8, and 15 and 22. 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

Location is Submarine Veterans Club, 40 School Street, Groton 06340

Register Online: <https://app.formassembly.com/index.php?url=forms/view/3621>

The Squadron Boating Course is a course for all boaters including skippers of a family cruiser, sailing enthusiasts, personal watercraft (PWC) operators, hunters or fishermen operating an outboard utility boat, and canoe and kayak paddlers. It covers the basics you need to know to safely and legally operate your boat, such as basic boating terminology, boat handling, water sports safety, PWCs, legally required equipment and other boating laws and regulations, right-of-way rules between boats, and marine radio operation. The course is meant to be of interest to the whole family, and we encourage your family to attend as a group.

Beyond the basic safety material, additional material covers the fundamentals of reading nautical charts, of using a chart to plot and follow a safe course, and the basics of using a Global Positioning System (GPS) for navigation. In addition to practice charts and plotting tools, the materials supplied with the course also include a CD-ROM containing Maptech's Chart Navigator computer program, allowing the student to learn about this exciting new electronic technology.



Notice for the Member Ships in the Liberty Flotilla and Friends of Sea Scouting

This memo was just shared with me today by the Regional Commodore Bob Sirhal.

It answers a number of the ambiguous pieces of information sent out earlier about Sea Scouts' relation to the Venturing program. You can share this with your shipmates as well as your council reps:

February 4, 2009

To: Scout executives, Regional Commodores, Regional Advisors

From: Keith Christopher, Sea Scouts, BSA Director Cc: National Sea Scouts Committee

Share: Local council Sea Scouts, BSA Advisors, Interested Sea Scouts, BSA Ships, and volunteers

RE: Clarification on recent changes in BSA Organization

There has been a lot of confusion and misinformation about the recent changes with our national Boy Scouts of America organization. This memo is designed to clear up many of those concerns as we move ahead to better serve the needs of our youth members, especially through Sea Scouts, BSA. The recent reorganization of the Boy Scouts of America has the oversight for Sea Scouts, BSA under the direction of the National Events Department, reporting directly to the Outdoor Adventures Group. Keith Christopher, department manager for National Events, oversees all operations and support of Sea Scouts, BSA. The National Sea Scouts, BSA Committee is a support committee and reports directly to the vice president of the Outdoor Adventures Standing Committee. The Sea Scouts, BSA Committee does the following to support the Sea Scout program:

1) Provides quality program support, 2) Develops support materials and awards, 3) Supports leader and youth training, 4) Promotes growth in membership and ships, 5) Maintains relationships with outside organizations, and 6) Provides coordination and support for the Koch Cup.

The Sea Scouts, BSA program works closely with the new Council Solutions Group to ensure there is cooperation between Sea Scouts, BSA and the Program Impact, Membership Impact, and Finance Impact departments of Council Solutions. This collaboration with the other BSA departments will ensure that information on Sea Scouts, BSA is published in the Venturing literature and that information on Venturing is shared in Sea Scout literature. This allows our teenage youth members to know of their options to become involved.

Sea Scout members and all Ships continue to be registered as a part of Venturing (traditional) membership and units. Sea Scout Ships, as well as youth and adult members, still follow the standards of membership. Any awards, recognitions, and advancements a Sea Scout was eligible to earn prior to the change in organization are still available to them at this time.

There could be changes made in the future, but none are planned at the present time. As any potential changes are reviewed, an adequate grace period will be shared with councils and with the field to allow ample time for implementation before they become a part of the program. For the moment, we stand with the statements, "steady as she goes" and "stay the course!" Our mission of Sea Scouts, BSA is: "To develop, enhance, and expand the Sea Scouts, BSA program in a manner that emphasizes the purposes and achieves the objectives of the Boy Scouts of America, working to help local councils improve their membership and programs." For additional questions, contact: 972-580-7810.



Northeast Region Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball

Ahoy Skippers, Shipmates, Sea Scouts, Sailors, and Friends !

*The RBOH Committee is happy to announce that the Boarding Manual for the 2009 Regional Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball has been posted on the NER website at:

http://neregion.seascout.org/program_and_communications/ner_boh.html.

*If you have access to the Internet, please print a copy of this file and read through it so that you can enroll your Ship. We have lots planned and hope you and your crew can join in. (If you do not have access, please let me know and I will send you a hard copy.)

*Here is a brief synopsis to encourage your Ship to participate!

.. This annual event will be held the weekend of March 28, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport/Swedeseboro, New Jersey. They are located off Exit 10, Interstate Route 295. We have been using this facility for a couple of years and they are looking forward to serving us once again.

.. The Banquet Ticket is \$45.00 per person; Hotel Room is \$86.00 (max. 4 occupancy, double beds). We will have three Dinner choices this year:

Deluxe Meatloaf, Chicken Parmesan or Pasta Primavera (vegetarian). Meal includes: salad, fruit cup, entree, rolls, dessert and beverages (water, iced tea, hot coffee). A Commemorative Cup and "Frisbee" will be given to all paid banquet attendees.

.. RBOH Registration Deadline is February 16, 2009. Checks should be made payable to "Northeast Region, BSA - Bridge of Honor 2009".

.. 2008 Nomination forms are available for: Sea Scout of the Year (one per ship in attendance), Regional Commodore's Award of Excellence, Catherine A Mullikin Sea Scout Volunteer of the Year, Commander Keane Award, and the 2008-2009 Regional Boatswain's Mate. Deadlines and Award Coordinators are noted on the forms included in the Boarding Manual.

.. We are excited to announce we have secured as our Keynote Speaker: TBD

.. The "Sea Chest" is coming back this year, providing a space for Ships to do some fund-raising, unit promotion, and information sharing. See the Boarding Manual for some specifics and details. Any questions, contact Deidre Buchner for logistics.

.. Reminder: the Holiday Inn Select has an indoor pool and fitness center for registered guests. Regular Check-in is 1500 hours, but the hotel will try to have the rooms ready earlier. The RBOH Suite will be serving as "Sea Scout Central." so you can check on other Ships, chat with those who have arrived, and, if needed, leave your bags if your room is not yet ready. Checkout is 1200 hours on Sunday.

.. All meals, other than the banquet Saturday night (1800 hours) are the responsibility of the Ships. In addition to the hotel's Atrium restaurant, there is a McDonalds across the street, and nearby, Wendys, Dunkin Donuts, Super Wawa, Applebees, and even an A&P Supermarket.

.. The semi-formal dress code for the 2008 RBOH Ball will be strictly enforced this year based on feedback from previously attending Ships and their crews. Only appropriately attired scouts will be allowed back into the Pureland Land for the dance portion of the evening and only registered scouts and their family will be admitted. Thank you for your adherence to this policy.

We look forward to another great RBOH this year. Don't let your unit be left behind at the dock. Set your course for the March 28, 2009, Northeast Region Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball. All the forms you need are included in the Boarding Manual. Please take a moment today to download the file and share it with your Ship.

Hope to see you all there!

Deidre Buchner

RBOH Committee Chair

Email: deidre.buchner@prudential.com

(908) 245-1288