



## Susquenango SeaChest



Monthly Publication



February 2021

Volume 66 Issue 2

District 6

### Susquenango February Happenings

#### 17 February 2021 Meeting Zoom Meeting



National USPS Annual Meeting  
Something for every Member!

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB  
For Boaters, By Boaters™



Virtual Annual Meeting  
February 15-26, 2021



2021 National Annual Meeting will be virtual and held over two weeks. There is no registration required, except for a single course offering. Just open the agenda, and find the session of interest to you.

#### How to Connect

1. Go to **FreeConferenceCall.com** 10 minutes before the meeting date and time.

Enter meeting ID **USPSABC** for ALL meetings on the agenda (below).

#### How to Prepare and Meeting Tips:

- Attendees can connect 10 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting start time. Meetings will start at their time, sharp.
- Turn camera (video) and sound OFF when initially joining unless specifically asked to turn them on.

Connection Issues? Use the step-by-step connection documents on National Meetings web page, "Meeting Overview".

All meetings will be recorded. If you miss one or have difficulty connecting, visit the National Meeting web page after 48 hours to find the link.

Practice connecting prior to the meeting, outside of any other meeting time. Safest is before 10:45 AM EST or after 9:30 PM EST during the conference, or most anytime prior to February 15.

#### Don't Have a Computer/Smartphone but want to attend?

Call a friend and watch with them while social distancing! Everyone is invited!

Call a non-computer owning squadron member and invite them to watch while social distancing.

Keep an eye on the National Meeting web page for updates before and during!





# SeaChest

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**Executive Officer**  
**Education Officer**  
**Adm. Officer**  
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**Treasurer**  
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P/C Michael Acciai, AP  
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Lt/C Linda G. Rought, P  
Lt/C Margaret Acciai, S  
D/C Nancy Bieber, P  
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## Commander's Comments

Commander  
*Mary Kucharek, P*

As I look out my window today I see snow coming down and wonder... will spring ever arrive in upstate NY? Of course it will and now only 3 months til boating season

Our January Zoom meeting was well attended and thanks to all who "came". At that meeting I was happy to announce that we finally received our donation from Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. With the new way it had to be done due to COVID restrictions we did not receive as much as in the past, but added \$69.39 to our account to continue our efforts to teach safe boating practices to the boaters in our area.

It was decided that our February meeting will also be a virtual meeting via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent out prior to the meeting with easy to follow instructions. If you have any questions about doing this, please contact me. . Hopefully by our March Change of Watch all or most members will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine and we will once again be together in person.

The USPS/America's Boating Club Annual Meeting which was scheduled for Orlando, Florida and gone virtual and will be available to all members via the Free Conference Call (FCC) program from 15-26 February. Last year Bob & I had the privilege of attending our first national conference and this is a great opportunity for all of us to attend virtually and at no cost! Emails have been sent with more information and the schedule of events & workshops. I will represent our squadron at the annual meeting and look forward to "being" there.

As of this writing the District 6 Conference scheduled for 9-11 April is still planned to be in person at the Radisson Hotel in Corning. Further details will be coming soon via email. I do hope many of you will plan to attend. This will include the Change of Watch where our D/C Nancy Bieber will step down from her position. Thanks Nancy for doing a great job in spite of COVID!

Wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day – Here's a quote from Comedienne, Lucille Ball

**"Love Yourself First and Everything Else Falls Into Line"**

Stay safe and stay well. I hope to see you at all of our events, and remember.....-

**"America's Boating Club...is YOUR Boating Club"**





## On the Horizon Susquenango Events

20 March 2021—Change Of Watch—TBD  
Jonathans in Endwell depending on NYS  
Covid-19 Rules  
21 April 2021—Meeting — TBD

### District 6 Events

9-11 April 2021—D/6 Conference at  
The Radisson, Corning NY—TBD

P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP  
Editor Emeritus



**Two little boys were at a  
wedding when one leaned over  
to the other and asked, "How  
many wives can a man have?"  
His friend answered, "Sixteen...  
four better, four worse, four  
richer, and four poorer."**

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-L-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.

PASS THIS AROUND AND MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH!  
LAUGHTER IS THE SOUL'S MEDICINE!!

### HORN SIGNALS

1 short	USA Inland rule 34	Pass port to port
1 short	International Rule 34	Altering course to starboard
1 short	USA Inland rule 34	Overtaking on starboard side
2 short	USA Inland rule 34	Pass starboard to starboard
2 short	International Rule 34	Altering course to port
2 short	USA Inland rule 34	Overtaking on port side
3 short		Operating in reverse
5 or more short		In doubt or danger

### In Reduced Visibility (every 2 minutes)

One Prolonged	Underway, under power
Two Prolonged	Not moored or anchored, but stopped
One Prolonged,	Sailing vessel, commercial fishing
2 short	vessel, vessel not under command or
	one restricted by draft.
One Prolonged, 3 short	Being towed

## Weighing Live Whales

How do you weigh a living whale? The obvious response is very carefully, but scientists can't exactly put these large marine mammals on a scale. Researchers from Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in Denmark and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in the U.S. devised a way to accurately estimate the weight of free-living whales using only aerial images taken by drones. The innovative method, published in the British Ecological Journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, can be used to learn more about the physiology and ecology of whales.

By measuring the body length, width and height of free-living southern right whales photographed by drones, researchers were able to develop a model that accurately calculated the body volume and mass of the whales. Because of their large size and aquatic life, previously the only way to obtain data on the body mass of whales was to weigh dead or stranded individuals.

“Knowing the body mass of free-living whales opens up new avenues of research,” says Fredrik Christiansen, an assistant professor at AIAS and lead author of the study, which was funded by a research grant from the National Geographic Society. “We will now be able to look at the growth of known aged individuals to calculate their body mass increase over time and the energy requirements for growth. We will also be able to look at the daily energy requirements of whales and calculate how much prey they need to consume.”

“Weight measurements of live whales at sea can inform how chronic stressors affect their survival and ability to produce offspring,” adds Michael Moore, a biologist at WHOI and a co-author of the paper.

To calculate the body volume and mass of southern right whales the researchers first took aerial photos of 86 individuals off the coast of Península Valdés, Argentina. The clear waters and the large number of whales that gather there every winter for breeding made it an ideal place to collect high quality images of both the dorsal and lateral sides of the whales. From these they were able to obtain length, width and height measurements.

The model also allowed the researchers to collaborate with the Digital Life Project at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the USA to first recreate a 3D mesh of the whale, and then to work with CG artist Robert Gutierrez to recreate the full-colour 3D model of the right whale. These models can be used for both scientific purposes, such as studying movement, as well as for educational uses.

By adjusting the parameters of the model, the approach could be used to estimate the size of other marine mammals where alternative, more invasive, methods aren't feasible or desirable.

Baleen whales, which include species like the blue whale, are the largest animals on this planet, with body mass being central to their success as an animal group. However, data on their size has historically been limited to dead specimens, with most samples coming from whaling operations, accidental fisheries bycatch or beach strandings.

Collecting data on dead whales has limitations such as being unable to collect longitudinal data over a whale's life span and inaccuracies from physical distortion of carcasses caused by bloating and deflation.

“The difficulty in measuring body mass reliably in free-living whales, has prevented the inclusion of body mass in many studies in ecology, physiology and bioenergetics,” Christiansen says. “This novel approach will now make it possible to finally include this central variable into future studies of free-living whales.”

*The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is a private, non-profit organization on Cape Cod, Mass., dedicated to marine research, engineering, and higher education. Established in 1930 on a recommendation from the National Academy of Sciences, its primary mission is to understand the oceans and their interaction with the Earth as a whole, and to communicate a basic understanding of the oceans' role in the changing global environment. For more information, please visit [www.whoi.edu](http://www.whoi.edu).*

# Nominating Committee Report

28 December 2020

In accordance with the provisions of the Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron By-Laws, *Sections 5.5 & 6.8, and Article 11*, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for office for the 2021-2022 year:

## **Elected Executive Committee Members with voting privileges at all meetings**

### **Squadron Bridge**

Commander  
Executive Officer  
Squadron Educational Officer  
Administrative Officer  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Michael Acciai, AP  
Mary Kucharek, P  
Leslie Smith, JN  
Linda Rought, P  
Nancy Bieber, P  
Kathy Darrah, S

### **Members at Large**

Ronald Bieber, S  
William Herrick, JN  
Anna Smith, S  
John Young, AP  
Robert Gould, AP  
Donna Gould  
David Olds, AP  
Robert Kucharek, P

## **Elected Officers and Committees (not part of the Executive Committee with no voting privileges at Executive meetings)\***

Asst. Squadron Education Officer  
Asst. Administrative Officer  
Asst. Secretaries

Bill Herrick, JN  
TBD  
Margaret "Missy" Olds, S  
Margaret "Peg" Acciai, S

Asst. Treasurer

Justin Park, SN

## **Bylaws and Rules Committee:**

David Olds, AP  
John Young, AP

## **Auditing Committee:**

Carol Herz, S  
Donna Gould

## **Nominating Committee 2020-2021: Chair**

David Olds, AP  
Linda Rought, P  
Robert Kucharek, P

Each nominee has been personally contacted, made aware of the duties of the office and has accepted the nomination for that office.

Respectfully Submitted,

**David L. Olds**

Chairman Nominating Committee 2020

**\*All Squadron members may vote at General Membership Meetings**

# What's In That Water?

## 'Geochemical Santa Claus' Offers New Data To Climate Modelers

January 08, 2021

Barbara Moran, senior producing editor for WBUR's environmental vertical.

For many years scientists thought that groundwater — which hides in underground aquifers and slowly makes it way out to sea — wasn't adding much to ocean chemistry.

After all, groundwater only makes up a small percentage of the global freshwater flowing into the sea. But a new study in the journal *Nature Communications* finds that there's a lot more chemicals flowing through groundwater into the ocean than previously thought. That new data should help researchers make better models of Earth's past and future climate.

“Groundwater is one of those things that people haven't paid a ton of attention to, but that's changing,” says Boston University ecologist Wally Fulweiler, who was not involved with the new paper. In recent decades, she says, scientists have realized that groundwater “informs different things like climate models, and how much nutrients are available to produce phytoplankton, which form the base of food webs.”

The new research focused on five elements found in groundwater that are particularly important for climate modeling: lithium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, and barium. Paleo-oceanographers — scientists who study the ancient ocean — measure levels of these elements (and others) in deep sea sediments to reconstruct certain aspects of Earth's history. For instance, they can look at how intense the breakdown of Earth's crust has been over time, or how much carbon has been stored in the ocean. Until now, though, a piece of the data has been missing — the groundwater piece.

“I consider myself a geochemical Santa Claus. This is a number that so many modelers have wanted,” says lead study author Kimberley Mayfield, with a laugh. She says the research, part of her doctoral thesis at the University of California, Santa Cruz, took years of chemical analysis and lots of begging groundwater samples off strangers and colleagues. “This was a global effort by a lot of people who all wanted this question answered,” she says.

The additional data should lead to better models of Earth's past climate, says Matthew Charette, a senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and co-author on the paper.

“Certainly they'll be more accurate, because this is something that really hasn't been accounted for,” says Charette, who contributed groundwater for the study from his massive library of hundreds of samples. He says improving models of the past should help us better understand the current changes in Earth's climate. Mayfield agrees.

“We want to improve climate models for reasons that I believe are obvious at this point,” says Mayfield. “If you ground truth a model and you know it does a very good job of understanding and predicting climates in the past, you know that it's going to do a good job with climates in the future.”







**SHE WANTED TO GO SOMEPLACE  
EXPENSIVE**



**SO I TOOK HER TO THE FUEL  
DOCK**



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