



PASSING THE WORD

FROM
THE
QUARTERDECK



DRAGON
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SEA SCOUT SHIP 584

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Upcoming Events

October 08 - Theme: Ropes & Lines

- 27 Ship 584 Regular Meeting (SubVets-Groton Meeting Hall 7pm-9pm) Knots & Ropes class
- 29 Ship 584 Committee Meeting (Coast Guard Academy, Yeaton Hall, Rm 202)
- 30-31 Eagle Haunted Ship Tour (5-10pm) (Please bring a canned good donation)
- 31-Nov1 Eagle Haunted Ship Tour/Overnight on boats
- 31-Nov 2 Venturing Camporee at JN Webster - CANCELED

November 08 - Theme: Ground Tackle & Winterize Boats

November Goals:

Winter cruise - Swim Tests at Sub Base Pool - Recruitment night: establish date - Perform/teach/learn engine maintenance for winter - Clean boats/take gear off - Plan/Repair any/all parts - Boom Cleaning Fundraiser

- 3 Ship 584 Quarterdeck Meeting (Bosn Iott's house - 7pm-9pm)
- 10,17,24 Ship 584 Regular Meeting (SubVets-Groton Meeting Hall 7pm-9pm)
- 11 Veterans Day Memorial Service (10am-12pm SubVets Memorial)
- 17 Popcorn Orders/Money Due

December 08 - Theme: Navigation Course - Advancement

December Goals:

Swim Tests at Sub Base Pool - Host USPS classes - Elections - Navigation Course

- 1 Ship 584 Quarterdeck Meeting (Bosn Iott's house - 7pm-9pm)
- 6 Popcorn Pick up for Distribution to Purchasers
- 8,15,22,29 Ship 584 Regular Meeting (SubVets-Groton Meeting Hall 7pm-9pm)
- 12 Mystic Festival of Lights (4-9pm)

January 2009 - Theme: Leadership Training - Advancement

January Goals:

Recapture - Winter Cruise - Inventory - Quarterdeck Training

4 Eagle Bridge of Honor

9-11 Catocin

February 09 - Theme: Navigation Course - Advancement

February Goals:

Swimming at pool - Customs of Flag Class - Communications Class - Navigation Course

March 09 - Theme: Boat Knowledge - Advancement

March Goals:

Flag History Class - Navigation Class - Boat types Class - Rules of the Road Class - Prepare Boats for the Season

28 Bridge & Ball (Bridgeport, NJ)

April 09 - Theme: Boating Courses - Spring Recruitment

April Goals:

Go Boating every weekend - Recruitment Nights - Pool Party for the Ship - US Power Squadron Boating Course - Start Sailing Basic Training - Apply Skills Learned in Winter

May 09 - Theme: Boating Courses - Prep for Boating Season

May Goals:

US Power Squadron Boating Course - John Gardner Row and Cleanup of Pine Island - More Hands On Teaching - Real-Time Teaching Situations - Memorial Day Services at the National Submarine Memorial East

June 09 - Theme: Safety Inspections - Summer Programs

June Goals:

Sail Camps - Pirates GAM (Capt Coves Marina, Bridgeport, CT) - Super Activity (Camp Able Jun 23-29) - Long Cruise to Cape Cod/Block Island - Hands On Teaching

July 09 - Theme: Sail Training - Summer Programs

July Goals:

Groton 4th of July Parade/Reception at SUBVETS - Pool party - Sailing Camps - New England Flotilla Weekend - Prep for Kings Point Regatta

August 09 - Theme: Sail Training - Sail Regatta

August Goals:

Super Activity - Long Cruise to NE Region Regatta at Kings Point - Short Cruise (2-3 days) - Camp Ordinary @ JN Webster

A WORD FROM THE SKIPPER:

Ship Dragon,

I am so proud of how our Ship has chartered its course thru this past year.

We have successfully crossed the finish line with two crew members completing extreme adventure - Stefano Buccy with Camp Able and Amanda Ballassi with SEAL. Our crew has had FUN and ADVENTURE with short cruises to Bridgeport, CT, Bristol, RI and around the local waters. Our crew are surrounded by Mates who have a depth of experience and talent. We appreciate our sponsor SUBVETS Groton. SUBVETS has that naval maritime history that youth in Sea Scouts need. We do not have to decorate our meeting place one bit. The history and sense of human adventure and respect at SUBVETS runs thick of American pride. Next year I foresee more Cruising, Advancement, Camp Ordinary at JN Webster and Camp Able in Maryland. In January we can expect a Bridge of Honor for two Eagle Scouts - Marco Buccy and Stefano Buccy. Scuttlebutt has a rumor that can very well be true - The Fifth Biennial William I. Koch International Sea Scout Cup will be held in here at the Coast Guard Academy in 2010!

2 Eagles Have Landed

I am very pleased to tell you all that “da Dragon” has 2 new Eagle Scouts. Marco and Stefano Buccy successfully passed their Boards of Review and they both performed very well. Mr. Larry Wolfgang attended for the Mohegan District. Mr. Bill Wheaton, Mr. Kris Leverich, and myself represented Ship 584. My thanks to both Bill and Kris for their support. It was as good a Board as my Scouting experience has provided me the opportunity to serve on. Special acknowledgement to Bill for getting there on time all the way from Boston !!!! A Scout is Loyal!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE GROTON SUBVETS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Sea Scouts Change of Command

Meet the New National Commodore

After ten years of honorable service as National Commodore Jimmie Homburg of Bryan, TX passed the mantle of responsibility of the nations oldest Scouting program to Charles Wurster, VADM, USCG (Ret). Commodore Wurster is a 1971 honors graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, received his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1976 and is a 1993 graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He served in a variety of locations and commands in the USCG in Florida, Alaska, Washington, Louisiana, Hawaii, California, Washington, D.C. and other locations.

An accomplished engineer, leader, and friend of Sea Scouts Commodore Wurster is ready to lead us through the excitement and challenges that lay ahead. "We will plot a track line for success in our future adventures in the Boy Scout of America and the the national committee is already looking at new opportunities and challenges" says Wurster, "You can help us and the program by bringing your ideas forward at the unit, council, area, regional, and national levels. All of us on the committee look forward to serving you and the Scouts."

SeaScouts.US would like to thank Commodore Homburg for her leadership, dedication to the Sea Scout program and her tireless efforts that have helped our program to grow to new heights during her tenure. It is with great affection that we bid her a fine fair well. We welcome Commodore Wurster and look forward to many years of service together serving the US Sea Scout community.

Pine Island Clean up 2008

The Ship Dragon in support of the annual Earth Day cleanup scheduled for 10 AM Sunday, May 4. We rowed over as a group to Pine Island (about a half mile out) and help spruce up the island. Our Ship' crew supported the local John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association. They are interested in working with our crew members. They have a Community Boathouse at Avery Point. We visited their boathouse and learned about boatbuilding techniques, went for a row, and had a cookout. You can see pictures on their website of a past cleanup (plus our other activities). http://www.tsca.net/johngardner/pine_island2001.htm

We were also a part of ShopRite's Earth Day mission, which is to promote civic engagement, broaden the meaning of "environment," and mobilize communities. ShopRite's yearly Earth Day program has reached out to towns as far north as Central Village, as far west as Lyme and as far east as the Pawcatuck; serving over 450 organizations and over 9,000 participants.

We supported The Scouting Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to -

Be clean in my outdoor manners

Be careful with fire

Be considerate in the outdoors, and

Be conservation minded.

<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/advance/boyscout/bsoathlaw.asp>

I know our combined efforts will make Southeastern Connecticut's environment just a little nicer this spring.



June Pirates GAM at Capt Cove 6/6-8/2008

We made a milestone event. We had Fun! Games! Food! Camaraderie! at the Captain's Cove Seaport, Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport, CT.

But this was not all, it was the fact that our Ship arrived by boat - a 40' Trawler.

On board and by car the following members were in attendance -- Bosn Amanda Ballassi, Crew Members Jezzika Graham, Shayna Lavine, and Peter Forney, STBD#2 ASSISTANT Crew Leader Courtland Payne. The adults were Skipper Marshall Parsons, Mate - Social Officer Cathy Greer and Vivian DeSiervo, Mate Training Dan Forney and Captain of the Boat Alan Donn.

Agenda: The program included

- Treasure Hunt (bring a compass)
- Boat Decorating Contest (including pirate costumes)
- Piratical Day Time Activities
- Evening activities & dock party including making your own sundae.

Sunday program included a religious service at 0800 .

The New Haven Power Squadron conducted Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) for all Sea Scout boats in need. Summer weather really took hold on the weekend, but on the return trip the heat wave broke with a small white squall. The weather got rough at the last turn. All made a safe landing at the dock with stories to tell. I am really proud of the crew that went. Great attitudes and team work. AND very thankful for Capt Donn, who took the time and patience for this trip and lead us through this milestone event.



THE HERRESHOFF RENDEZVOUS

The Sea Scout New England Flotilla Rendezvous at the Herreshoff compound in Bristol, RI.

<http://www.herreshoff.org/>

Enjoyed sailing, cruising, fun, games, a big dance and the chance to meet new Sea Scout friends from all over New England.

Super News! A great weekend was planned for you!

Meet Ships from Maine - New Hampshire - Vermont - Massachusetts - Rhode Island - Connecticut

Lunch Saturday, dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Friday night - check in and a cracker barrel. Saturday they will tour the Herreshoff Museum, the America's Cup Hall of Fame, Sail, then a BBQ dinner followed by dancing and music. Sunday is breakfast and a flotilla meeting.

- Activities included a guided tour of the Herreshoff Marine Museum and the America's Cup Hall of Fame.

- Sailing on the Herreshoff 12.5's for all attendees

- Saturday BBQ with music and dancing



CHRISTENING OF FAFNIR

"For thousands of years, we have gone to sea. We have crafted vessels to carry us and we have called them by name. These ships will nurture and care for us through perilous seas, and so we affectionately call them "SHE." To them we toast, and ask to celebrate, "Fafnir". (Raises glass) Shout, "TO THE SAILORS OF OLD...TO Fafnir." (Everyone sips.)

"The moods of the sea are many, from tranquil to violent. We ask that this ship be given the strength to carry on. The keel is strong and she keeps out the pressures of the sea." (Raise glasses) Shout: "TO THE SEA...TO THE SAILORS OF OLD...TO THE SEA!" (Everybody takes another sip.)

"Today we come to name this lady "Fafnir", and send her to sea to be cared for, and to care for the mates and crew of the Sea Scout Ship 584. We ask the sailors of old and the mood of God that is the sea to accept Fafnir as her name, to help her through her passages, and allow her to return with her crew safely." (Raising glasses) "TO THE SEA...TO THE SAILORS BEFORE US...TO Fafnir." (Sip)

"Now we will pour champagne over the bow to appease King Neptune, and lay a branch of green leaves on the deck to ensure safe returns."



LANDSHIP CEREMONY - Sept 29, 2008

Sea Scout Ship 584 - The Dragon

With all the pomp and circumstance worthy of a Coast Guard graduation, the Sea Scout Ship 584 "The Dragon" honored it's Scouts, sponsors and leaders. Held at the SubVets - Groton Meeting Hall, it began with the 2 crews assembling on the "dock" in neat formation. The Supply Mate and Boatswain faced each other from either side of a ship's deck laid out inside the meeting hall. The two saluted the mast, then the aft flagpole in recognition. They entered the ship, saluted each other and the Supply Mate, Alan Iott gave the Boatswain Amanda Ballassi her orders to assemble the crew and have them "lay aboard", which she did. The Starboard side boys crew, the Buoys, came aboard in similar fashion, saluting as they "boarded", then the Port side girls crew, the Gulls, did also. The SubVets Representative: Mike Munhall, Base Commander, then Dragon First Mate, Kris Leverich and Dragon Skipper, Marshall Parsons. The Color Guard, consisting of Matthew Moriarty, William Wheaton, Jr and Nicholas Wovoitis, was called forward to hoist the colors. The National Anthem played right on cue for the colors, then the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken by all present. A slideshow presentation of 2008 - Sea Scout Ship 584 Year in Review was given and narrated by Skipper Parsons. The New Recruits were then called forward to pledge their allegiance and sign the ship's log. New Recruits included: Matthew Moriarty, Peter Forney, Shayna Levine, Jezzika Graham, Nicholas Wovoitis, William Wheaton. Then came the Rank Advancements, To Apprentice: Matthew Moriarty, William Wheaton. To Ordinary: Stefano Buccy, Marco Buccy, Amanda Ballassi and Rosalina Iott. To Able: Stefano Buccy and Amanda Ballassi. Special recognition was given to Amanda Ballassi for her participation in the Sea Scout SEAL training and Stefano Buccy for his participation in Camp Able in Maryland. A short speech about their experiences at each event was given by Amanda and Stefano. The Boatswain, Amanda Ballassi was relieved of duty and the current Boatswain's Mate, Rosa Iott assumed the duties of Boatswain. Skipper then recognized the Committee members, Boy Scout Council member, Ken Barber and SubVet guests. The ceremony was concluded with as much flourish as it had begun, with the departing of the Dragon Officers, SubVet Representative, lowering of colors, playing of "Evening Colors" and departing of the Crews, then Supply Mate and Boatswain. A dessert reception followed.

