



# THE SEBASTIAN-INLET

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Official Publication of Sebastian Inlet Sail & Power Squadron  
a Unit of District 8, United States Power Squadrons®

*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends<sup>sm</sup>*



## SUN HALO



A Sun Halo forms as sunlight is refracted in millions of randomly oriented hexagonal ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere. *(Photo by Lt Cathy Mangold, JN)*

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# From the Helm



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We're on the web at:  
[www.sebastianinletps.org](http://www.sebastianinletps.org)

We are in the "last" month of our three month hiatus from Membership meetings. The next Membership meeting is 21 September 2015 and I hope everyone comes to the meeting prepared to sign-up to help with the next SISPS booth at the November Sebastian Clambake, which is being held the first full weekend in November, the 6th -8th 2015. Most of us know the drill, those that don't should sign-up for shifts with those that do. Contact Charmaine for details on helping out.

I just read that Dick Allen has renewed our adoption of the Spoil Islands IR 12 & IR 13, the original two adopted spoil islands that we clean up. We are scheduled to visit and clean our three adopted spoil islands on 13 September 2015, a Sunday, for our participation in the Florida Coastal Cleanup held the following week on 19 September 2015. I enjoyed watching the squadron's team work last cleanup and boasted about it at the D8 Spring Conference. If all goes well with this clean up, those showing up on the 19th will have little to nothing to clean-up. Since we are now covering three Islands, I encourage a few more members to join in, remember there is always a picnic afterwards.

Details on other up-coming events can be found elsewhere in this fine publication. Continue with suggestions and helping to organize these events. Let us continue to keep positive thoughts and prayers for Felice Firestone as she navigates her way through the treatments. Hoping everyone stays safe on land as well as on the water this summer.

*Cdr Walter Seppala III, AP*



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## From the Educational Officer (SEO)



In looking over my notes, preparing for a new class of "Piloting" students, I find myself thinking about how marvelous the electronic devices of today are. GPS, chartplotters, autopilots, RADAR, programmable calculators & computer navigational software; to name just a few. One forgets how it used to be, "back in the day": dealing with TVMDC, dead reckoning and Bowditch Bay, reducing sextant sights and plotting lines of position. Cruise Planning prepares novices to successfully plan and implement that plan; searching out the latest editions of the paper charts needed, discovering hidden anchorages, passage making, the confidence to go flying off to some exotic destination, moving aboard yet another spiffy yacht for a few weeks to explore another area of the world. Along with the ease of use of these electronic marvels comes the responsibility to understand their limitations.

The following from the summer edition (2015) of "The Ensign": Lessons Learned/Boating Gone Bad

by P/C Linda Newland, JN

"The adage about boating in the San Juan Islands goes, "It's not if you will hit a rock, but when." For some people, the rock strike, as it's called, comes sooner rather than later. It happened one September day, headed out to the San Juans from Port Townsend in ideal conditions: calm winds and seas with a slight current push to the north once past Point Wilson.

One of the first rules to help avoid a rock strike is never get complacent. With the warm morning sun shining down on the blue world, it was easy to forget. Normally entering the inner San Juans through the Lopez Pass, in rougher conditions hugging the west coast of Whidbey Island until almost directly east of the Pass before making the turn to cross Rosario Strait.

That morning the crossing was made early over to the Lopez Island side of the Strait. A few boats were anchored in a small bight just south of the Pass. It appeared a bit crowded and shallow for the 7 foot draft, so the decision was made to cruise about 100 yards offshore. The navigator was on the chart plotter, checking the local bottom and obstructions.

Another rule to live by: When in open water, use paper charts, and when making way through a passage use the chart plotter so you can see details clearly. Even then, keep the paper charts handy as a backup. Although the paper chart was in the cockpit, it wasn't consulted as the vessel was close to shore. Motoring north, the helmsman could see a marker ostensibly mounted on an underwater rock ahead, "Kellet Ledge". The vessel was several yards inshore of the buoy. The Navigator on the chart plotter reported it looked safe. Motoring about 3 knots when the lead bulb keel struck solid rock, threw the boat into a forward lurch, stopped it dead in the water and then careened backward a few yards from the forward hit.

Immediately going below to check for incoming water, it was discovered the bilges were dry. The vessel has a lifting keel, not bolted to the bottom of the boat. The force of the hit had actually pushed the keel backward and slightly off center. Other than a big dent in the leading edge, the boat suffered no other damage. Later, with the assistance of a jack and a crowbar, the crew was able to coax the keel back into alignment.

People chartering out of Bellingham's San Juan Charters are warned to zoom in all the way on the chart plotter when navigating so they can see every nuance on the electronic chart. This the crew failed to do until after striking the rock.

Once this was done, the underwater "ledge" part of Kellet Ledge became apparent. By crosschecking the paper chart, it would have been obvious as well."

Excerpted below from *Coast Pilot, Volume 7, chapter 12 "Strait of San Juan De Fuca & Georgia, Washington"*

**Charts 18421, 18424, 18429, 18430, 18431**

Paragraph 32 says:

"**Kellet Ledge**, 2 miles N of Point Colville, extends 700 yards off Cape St. Mary, on the SE part of Lopez Island. The ledge is marked by kelp and a buoy, and uncovers at the lowest tides. In 2000, two shoal spots were reported E of the ledge. The first shoal was about 550 yards E in

*Cont'd Next Page*



### From the SEO *Cont'd*

48° 26'58" N., 122°47'13"W."

**“WARNING: The prudent navigator will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids.”**

I'm looking forward to seeing ALL Y'ALL in my next classes!

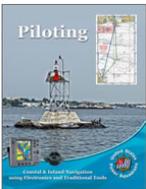
Fair Winds & Following Seas

D/Lt David "Mag" Mangold, SN  
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Lunch Bunch at Capt'n Butchers 4 August 2015.

### A reminder from the Award Winning Education Department!



The plan is for a Piloting course to begin in the very near future! Please contact the SEO with preferences: either a weekday evening from 1800-2000 or a Saturday morning, 0900-1100. I would like a head count for material ordering purposes ASAP! This course is open to all members, although the "P" rating won't be authorized until Seamanship has been successfully completed. This course will cost \$70.00 and students will need to provide dividers & a course plotter, both available from the USPS Ship's Store.

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**Sign up for a course today !**



**Thunderstorms and Severe Weather Forecasting  
Webinar 22 September 2015 at 2000 EDT  
Taking the Mystery out of Storm Forecasting  
[Click Here for more Information](#)**

## Upcoming Events

**1 September 2015  
Lunch Bunch  
Time: 1130**

**Sandy's Grille  
171 Sebastian Blvd  
See Lunch Bunch Web Page  
for more info**

**12 September 2015  
Monthly Social  
Time: 1800  
Host - Charmaine**

**13 September 2015  
Spoil Island Clean-up/Picnic  
Time: 1300  
More info will be e-mailed**

**14 September 2015  
Executive Com Mtg  
Time: 1900  
Sebastian Yacht Club**

**28 September 2015  
Member's Meeting  
Time: 1900  
Sebastian Yacht Club**



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Sebastian Inlet Sail & Power Squadron's *first* Red Mangrove planting date is set for  
Saturday, 10 October!**

To prepare the 40+ mangrove plants for an island environment, they are currently being grown in water collected directly from the shoreline of their new home Spoil Island IR#12. This gradual acclimation process should enable them to adjust quickly to their new life style and hopefully keep them from "going into shock" once exposed to the Indian River Lagoon.

As the date gets closer those planning to plant or assist during the 3-hour affair will be requested to RSVP so vessel transportation accommodations can be arranged.

Whether planting or assisting those who are digging the holes, please plan on bringing round-bladed shovels.

*We'll need as many shovels as possible!*

Members unable to attend this first planting event; don't fret. Plans are in the making for similar adventures on IR#13 in mid-December and another in early February 2016 for IR#14.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

*Lt Cat Mangold, JN*



Last year they were called propagules!



Now they are Red Mangrove plants.



## Indian River Lagoon: Friend or Foe?

Are the brackish Indian River Lagoon's waters safe for Squadron activities? Should future Spoil Island Clean-Ups be cancelled because of recent reported cases of "flesh eating bacteria" incidents occurring in the Lagoon? Both questions are serious concerns members have expressed during the past week. Our quest to answer these questions began via internet research.

After reading several sensationalism-type newspaper articles written during the past two years; they all seem to have one reliable source in common: the Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Boca Raton. The institution's research enables us to separate fact from creative writing.

The following excerpts are from their studies Pathogenic Vibrio Bacteria in the Indian River Lagoon and their Potential Threat to Human Health by Gabby Barbarite and Peter J. McCarthy:

*"There is a large and diverse group of marine bacteria occurring naturally world-wide called Vibrio. Most members are harmless and can actually benefit the ecosystem by breaking down organic matter or providing food for larger organisms. Vibrio are part of the natural microflora of many marine animals such as oysters, clams, shrimp, crabs, and fish. They are not a result of pollution. Some strains produce harmful toxins capable of causing a disease known as "vibriosis". About 15 species are known to infect humans and are most commonly found in brackish-water environments. Two species of particular concern are Vibrio parahaemolyticus and Vibrio vulnificus which are acquired through contaminated seafood or aquatic injuries.*

*Though present in Florida waters year-round, Vibrio is most abundant from April to November, when temperatures are the warmest. These natural peaks correspond with an increase in human infections, which are usually highest during the summer months.*

***Who is at risk for infection?** Most people are NOT at risk for developing illness. If encountered, a healthy immune system will combat infection and may only result in mild symptoms. However, people with weakened immune systems can develop life-threatening infections. Some high risk conditions that increase susceptibility include: liver disease, alcoholism, diabetes, hepatitis, hemochromatosis (iron overload), stomach disorders, HIV/AIDS, cancer, and long-term steroid use. Severe illness almost exclusively occurs in individuals who have these risk conditions. These patients are 80 times more likely to become ill and 200 times more likely to die. Though these cases are rare, they can be very serious and progress rapidly. Seek treatment immediately if you suspect infection.*

***How can people become infected?** In order for infection to occur, pathogenic Vibrio strains must enter the body of a susceptible individual. This is usually a result of consuming raw and*

*Cont'd Next Page*



## Indian River Lagoon: Friend or Foe? *Cont'd*

*contaminated seafood or through the prolonged exposure of a wound to areas where they are present. Activities that may result in contact with these bacteria include fishing, wading, and swimming as well as cleaning and eating seafood, especially during summer months.*

***Is Vibrio really "flesh eating"?*** *No! Vibrio cannot break down healthy, intact skin on contact. In order for infection to occur it must actually enter your body through prolonged exposure of an open, unhealed wound (or be consumed, usually through raw seafood). This is not a medical term and was likely derived from the fact that tissue death can occur during late stages of infection (around the wound if untreated, especially in those with weakened immune systems). Proper first aid practices and a healthy immune system can combat Vibrio infections.*

***What should I do if I'm injured during water activities?*** *Always treat injuries as soon as they happen. Clean the wound thoroughly with soap and water, removing any foreign material or debris. Rubbing alcohol or peroxide and antibiotic ointment should be used in larger/more severe injuries or punctures. Cover the area with a bandage and prevent further exposure until fully healed. If the area becomes swollen, hot or very painful and you suspect infection seek medical treatment immediately.*

***Looking locally:*** *Over the last decade, the state of Florida reported an average of 133 cases a year. Most recently, in 2014, there were a total of 167 reports of vibriosis; V. vulnificus was responsible for 32 infections and seven deaths, V. parahaemolyticus caused 30 infections and one death.*

*This may seem alarming at first, but infections are actually quite rare considering the millions of people that participate in water activities and consume local seafood each year. In fact, only a small percent of the population is actually classified as high risk for developing infection. The fear of becoming infected should not keep you from enjoying your favorite recreational activities or seafood dishes. The good news is that these infections are very easy to prevent if you use good safety and hygiene practices."*

[www.fau.edu/hboi/mbbr/vibrio.php](http://www.fau.edu/hboi/mbbr/vibrio.php)

Also, the Florida Department of Health has launched a new webpage to provide educational materials regarding this bacterium and potential health threats:

[www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vibrio-infections/vibrio-vulnificus/index.html?utm\\_source=article](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vibrio-infections/vibrio-vulnificus/index.html?utm_source=article)

Lt Cat Mangold, JN

Environmental Liaison



## SISPS 15 August Social at Capt'n Butchers



*... and a great time was had by all!!!*



## Notice — News From the Governing Board Meeting

SISPS Spoil Island Environmental Restoration Project was a major player in our District 8 receiving 1st Place this year at National, for an award for Member Involvement and Retention — the prestigious "MIRA" Award. The award was announced at the USPS Governing Board Meeting on Saturday, 29 August 2015. Thank you Mag for letting national know what we do here in Sebastian and in District 8.



### Boating Activities



We arrived home Tuesday night after three glorious, hectic weeks in MA. This even included our 2014 family Christmas party and Yankee swap!

Our boating activities were kayaking and motoring on Big Sandy Pond in Plymouth and cruising through the Cape Cod Canal. Karen even had a turn at the wheel!

Great to be home in Sebastian with one very sore toe (Karen) and despite finding two broken TVs, one broken computer and one broken solar hot water heater!

So...let's go boating! How about a sunset cruise on the

Lagoon? Look for the details on our Spoil Island Cleanup/Picnic to be held 13 September 2015 coming to you via e-mail. We will schedule a paddle at that time too. This is always an enjoyable day on the islands you won't want to miss!

Please, Please, Please send us your ideas and wishes for activities, we like to please.

Your favorite boating activities chairmen,

*Lt Dave and Lt Karen West*



# Happy Birthday!!!



## September Birthdays

Sheila Wisniewski	02 Sep
Harold Leh, Jr	19 Sep
Tammy Pasetchnik	21 Sep
Edna Markham	22 Sep
Jo Fancher	29 Sep
Martin Baker	30 Sep

**Deadline Next Issue**  
20 September 2015

**From the Editor**  
Thank you  
**Lt Cathy Mangold, JN**  
**Cdr Walter Seppala, AP**  
who contributed photos for this issue!



## Notices

### General Meetings Resume 28 September

Our speakers for the 28 September meeting will be Paul and Ann Lins. Paul Lins is a Florida Master Naturalist whose background includes Sea Turtle & Marine Mammal Strandings; Ocean Coastal Conservation; Marine Wildlife Education, Research and Monitoring.

**Lunch Bunch**  
**WEBSITE**

[lunchbunch.rdallenproject.com](http://lunchbunch.rdallenproject.com)

## Upcoming National/District Events

2015

18-20 Sep 15 D/8 Fall Council/Conference, Marriott, Boca Raton, FL

2016

14-21 Feb 16 Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

21-27 May 16 National Safe Boating Week



*This D/8 Fall Conference marks the end of the D/8 75th Anniversary Celebration.*

*You won't want to miss the Conference Festivities.*

**Don't Miss the D/8 Fall Conference - Reservation Form Attached**

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