

## LOCAL SAFE BOATING EDUCATION ORGANIZATION ELECTS NEW LEADER

Michael Kintner of Olean was installed by District 6 Executive Officer, Isabel Warren, as commander of Southern Tier Power Squadron. In his acceptance speech, Kintner said, "Our goal this year is all about United States Power Squadron (USPS) awareness and presenting to the public who we are and why we exist. It's one thing to have your own boat and learn about safe boating techniques from trailoring, navigating and boating safely. However, how many times have you ever been a passenger aboard your friends or family boat and God forbid a disaster occurred? Would you, a family member or kids know what to do to save themselves? Would you be able to navigate the boat and its crew to safety? What if you had seen another boat capsized; what would you do? What should you do if a passenger falls overboard or your boat capsizes? What questions should a passenger ask when you board someone else's boat? The Southern Tier Power Squadron is all about teaching safe boating techniques and having fun on the water." Mr. Kintner also added, "In reviewing the 2007 United States Coast Guard Boating Statics for 2007 which we received in June of 2008, deaths were down from 710 to 685, however, other casualty figures increased in which accidents rose from 4967 to 5191, and injuries rose from 3474 to 3673. With these totals 68% happened on a boat between the sizes of 16 feet and 24 feet or on a small personal watercraft such as a jet ski. They happened on a calm day between the hours of Noon and 4PM on lakes, ponds, reservoirs and dams. The top causes were due to Operator Inattention, Careless/Reckless Operation, Excessive Speed and Alcohol use. What was really interesting was those that could be interviewed discovered that over 85% had no prior training in boat safety."



Important dates to remember are **May 16-22, 2009** is National Safe Boating Week which reminds boaters to "Wear It!" In Olean for all Greater Olean Chamber Members we are offering FREE Boating Safety Vessel Checks and we promote the "Wear It!" awareness. Where we inspect your boat and give tips on ensuring your boat is properly



prepared and equipped for the summer fun on the water. The inspection station will be open during these 7 days by appointment only you can bring your boat by and we will inspect, give advice and award the "Vessel Safety Certificates" A must for boaters to inform local law enforcement you have a safe and certified boat. Last year the United States Power Squadron inspected over 100,000 boats and 25.127% failed due to such issues as Display of Numbers, Registrations, (Personal Floating Devices) PFD, Visual Distress Signals VDS, Fire Extinguishers, Ventilation, Backfire Flame Control, Sound Producing Devices, Nav Lights, Nav Rules and State and/or Local Regulations. ([www.safetyseal.net](http://www.safetyseal.net)) SPECIAL NOTE!! No penalties are assessed, but as the examiner I will make recommendations and discuss the safety issues and concerns and if your boat meets the requirements you will be presented the Vessel Safety Check Seal. Give us a call for an appointment at (716) 474-5700.

Also installed as bridge officers were; D/Lt/C Isabel Warren, Executive Officer, Lt/C Jamie Bowen, Administrative Officer, P/C Gladys Graham, Secretary/Treasurer, P/C William Warren, SEO and P/C Stanley Graham, ASEO.

Southern Tier Power Squadron is one of 18 squadrons in District 6. There are 33 District in the United States Power Squadrons. USPS is the premiere boating education organization in the United States.

As a final note, please help us keep boating fun and “Wear It!” it could save your life! For more details you can see our web site at <http://www.stusps.org> or contact Michael Kintner, Cdr at (716) 474-5700.