

From the Publisher



O.K. it's been a reasonably easy winter, you've made it through another St. Patrick's Day, your tax forms are ready to mail (maybe), your tackle

box(es) are back in order and, of course, your boat has been splashed and is bobbing restlessly in the tug-of-war between the tides and the mooring lines. Spring started on March 20, there's a new light in your eyes, the fish are shuddering, the bait shops are chock full of wiggles, ripples, clinks, clanks and salty scents, your significant other and the kids are talking up picnics, exploring, overnights, and even shopping trips with the boat, so it's that time of year again, friends.

In this issue, our always adventuresome writer, Jan Raber takes you "Sky High" as she recounts her ride in the cockpit of a fighter jet. Editor George Nammack's article, "More Underwater Treasures," describes two more discoveries by underwater explorer Nelson Jecas, one of them being a 17th century bronze cross, the second being a piece of decking from the ship of infamous pirate Edward "Blackbeard" Teach's hated vessel, *The Queen Anne's Revenge*, its wreckage found in the late 1990s off the Beaufort, NC coast. Our new contributing writer, Paul Esterle offers a timely "how-to" article on making various fiberglass repairs.

We recently received a reminder from the

U.S. Coast Guard that we'd like to share with our readers and their families. It's about National Safe Kids Week and making sure your children wear their life jackets while boating. The Coast Guard strongly recommends that adults wear their life jackets while on the water, not only to keep themselves safe, but to demonstrate safe behavior to the kids. They estimate that life jackets could prevent two-thirds of all boating related drownings of children ages 14 and under.

As we've been doing in recent issues, we'd very much like you to "meet" another of our outstanding contributing writers, Captain Donald Patafio. Don has been working with us for years, as many of you know. Here he is.

"Hello there! I was born in good old Brooklyn, and moved to Massapequa in 1940. I received my degree from Adelphi University in 1950, and immediately thereafter was "invited" to trade my fraternity blazer for a pair of U.S. Army fatigues. I was a dues paying member of the Signal Corps during the Korean War. After separation in 1952, I joined the family direct marketing business until my retirement in 1993. At that time I sold the business, which by then relocated from Manhattan to Bellmore, Long Island, and employed some 130 wonderful people...some of whom still speak to me. My passion has always been boating. During the past 60 years or so, I have handled a variety of boats, including being a mate on charter fishing boats up to 65 feet. As a result, I have gained a personal acquaintance with every sandbar from East Rockaway to Montauk...some more than once. These days, I

spend a lot of time as a Coast Guard Auxiliarist. I am a Public Education Officer and I administer and teach at about a dozen Boating Courses a year. I am also a qualified Vessel Examiner, and a USCG Qualified Coxwain. I hold a Merchant Marine Operators License, 100 Tons Near Coastal. And I serve on the Board of Managers of Snug Harbor Condominium in Amityville, where my wife Elizabeth and I reside. During my business career, I served as President of several business/trade organizations. As a result, my office wall was full of awards, none of which seem very important today. Lately, I have been collecting awards from the Auxiliary including "Auxiliarist of the Year," but the award I value most highly are the comments of our Boating Course graduates, who approach me afterward to tell me how glad they are to have taken the Course, because they've learned things that they would never have thought of on their own. Maybe even something that one day might save their lives. My best wishes to all of BW's readers,
Don Patafio"

Thanks so much, Don! Incidentally, we're re-launching a popular contest, "Why I Love Boating," and asking for your involvement. Please see the form below for details.

Have a great April...

Bill

Tell Us Why You Love Boating

*If We Use Your Photo
Receive One Year Free Subscription*



Why I Love Boating

Finish this sentence: "I (We) Love Boating Because..."

Boat Name _____

Make & Size _____

Model & Year _____

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

I hereby give my permission for L.I. Boating World to use the above information along with a photo in an upcoming issue of the publication

Signature _____

Send to: **Long Island Boating World, 93 Montauk Highway, Copiague, NY 11726**