

Power Squadron promotes boating safety

By Charlene Sharpe

Staff Writer

OCEAN PINES—As spring approaches, boaters throughout Delmarva are looking forward to another season out on the water.

In the Ocean City area, they have a unique resource available to help them get ready.

The Ocean City Power Squadron, a unit of the national U.S. Sail and Power Squadrons, is a local organization devoted to promoting safe boating. The group offers a variety of boating classes and educational programs.

“People don’t realize there are rules of the road,” said Sharon Connelly, a longtime member of the Power Squadron and its administrative officer. “This is one of the more tricky areas to do boating.”

The Ocean City Power Squadron, in spite of its name, is made up primarily of boaters from Ocean Pines.

“When we were formed, you couldn’t be a squadron without a municipality,” Connelly explained.

Since its start more than 30 years ago, the group has been an active part of the local boating scene. With a mission of promoting boating safety, Connelly said the group strives to provide a variety of educational programs and vessel safety checks for area boaters.

In addition to its educational activities, the group sponsors an array of social activities, such as raft-ups, cruises, picnics and dinners. Members of the



Members of the Ocean Pines Power Squadron take part in a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony. FILE PHOTO

Ocean City Power Squadron also work on community outreach activities, in helping to develop tide charts, aiding in fishing surveys and even providing those involved in the Believe in Tomorrow program with free boat rides.

“It’s a very diverse and active group,” Connelly said.

Pete Fox, the Power Squadron’s webmaster, said he first got involved with the group because he wanted to learn

boating safety. Having moved to the Pines from Pennsylvania, what he likes about the group is the fact that it’s a national organization with more than 400 squadrons throughout the country.

“It’s a camaraderie,” he said, adding that he could go to the Chesapeake Bay or elsewhere and be welcomed by Power Squadron members.

Anyone can join the Power Squadron — whether they own a boat or not — once

they take the group’s basic boating safety course. Individuals who want to join are then granted a free six-month membership.

Those who are interested in joining the Ocean City Power Squadron can contact Sharon Connelly at 410-641-5280.

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