

'Home Town' Sea Scouts Earn Flagship Award

BoatU.S. has awarded its 2007 Sea Scout Flagship Award to a Sea Scout unit in its own backyard, Ship 1942, *Dragonlady*, of Arlington, VA. As the top performing Sea Scout unit in the nation, Ship 1942 is recognized for excellence in program quality, youth achievement and adult commitment.

Like all Sea Scout units, Ship 1942 uses boats, seamanship and nautical skills to develop character and leadership qualities in young people, both male and female. But with 46 youth active in the program, Ship 1942 needs to keep a whole fleet of vessels available for training, racing and fun. The fleet ranges from day sailers and small cruising boats kept nearby on the Potomac River to five cruising sloops from 27 to 39 feet kept on the Chesapeake Bay at Solomons Island.

Following tradition, the official Flagship Award ceremony took place at the Boy Scouts of America Annual Meeting, held this year in Atlanta, GA, June 1. But in order to allow as many of Ship 1942's youth



BoatU.S. Chairman Richard Schwartz (center left) presents the Flagship trophy to crew and adult leaders of Ship 1942.

and adult crew to be honored, BoatU.S. Chairman and Founder Richard Schwartz held a special ceremony at BoatU.S. headquarters on Saturday, May 19.

Andrew Scheuermann, 18, the ship's boatswain or youth leader, and longtime BoatU.S. member and Sea Scout Skipper Tom Ballew of Fairfax, VA, accepted the award. Eight other crewmembers and seven

adults, including Quartermaster Sea Scouts, took part in the ceremony. Quartermaster is the highest rank a Sea Scout can achieve, and in keeping with its reputation for excellence, Ship 1942 has produced six Quartermasters in the last two years.

To earn the Flagship recognition, the ship and its crew of Sea Scouts compiled an impressive record of accomplishments last year, logging 54 days of on-water activities, including 21 days of overnight cruises and a week-long Chesapeake Bay cruise.

This is the sixth year for the Flagship Award, originated by BoatU.S. in 2002 to mark the 90th anniversary of Sea Scouting, a co-ed program for young adults age 14-20 with over 8,000 youth participating in 550 ships nationwide. A perpetual trophy bearing the names of the annual winning ships resides at the BSA National Scouting Museum in Irving, TX. For more information, visit: www.SeaScout.org.

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