

Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

www.usps-atlanta.org



WATERLOG



Members Meet

**A Shrimp Boil for
the Teachers**

**Getting to
Know You**

**Practice Docking
On-Line**



Commander's Message

Is there anyone left in town to read this Waterlog after the Caribbean Adventure Program? Bob and Carolyn Wilson presented the program at our August General Membership Meeting. I figured that we would have some members jump ship and head for the Caribbean after witnessing Bob and Carolyn's cruise and the life style that goes with it. Thanks Bob and Carolyn for sharing your adventure with us!

Cdr. Ed Troncalli, SN At our August General Membership Meeting, it was a great pleasure for me to present the Commander's Helm Award to some very special members for doing their assignments exceptionally well. The recipients of the award were: Lts. Randy Tahsler, David & Lisa Herndon and Doug & Patti Watson. Please read all about these awards in this Waterlog. Again, I say thanks to these officers for jobs well done!

I had the opportunity before our General Membership, at our August meeting, to present to our Administrative Officer, Lt/C Jeffrey D. Wise, N, a most prestigious plaque to recognize his grade as "NAVIGATOR". Congratulations Jeff! I would be proud to sail with you on any ocean anytime. By the way Jeff, there is life after Navigation.

In August, under the direction of First Officer Cathy Gruber, The Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron Auxiliary had a big turn out at their Luncheon Meeting. The meeting was productive and the participants enjoyed the fellowship.

To our New Members: Again welcome! By now, you have probably come to realize that our Squadron is like a buffet. We can meet your needs in many different ways with education, interesting meetings, on the water activities, cookouts, social events, seasonal parties, the Auxiliary, vessel safety exams, special events, travel, etc. Whichever you choose, you will be with friends. Better yet, very special and good friends. Friends that truly have something in common with you. I invite you to try it all.

It is that time of year when the Commander has the privilege to submit the applications for Merit Marks. We all want to be sure to recognize everyone that has earned a Merit Mark. Please be sure that the Squadron Officer that chaired your activity has made a report to our Merit Mark Chairman, Lt. Jack Friel, SN, so that you will be recognized for your contributions to the Squadron.

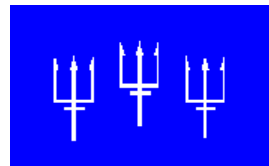
Please welcome our newest Squadron Officer, Lt Sheryl LaBoda. She will be serving as an assistant in our Treasurer Department.

"Safe Boating Through Education". Let us all give our instructors a BIG salute. See the photos of the Instructors' Appreciation Cookout in this issue. Can you spot the Chief Cook?

Past Commander Danny Tompkins and his nominating committee are now recruiting from the membership to serve as Squadron Officers. All members are eligible. Please call Danny at 770-992-4118 (H) or 770-992-5959 (W) or e-mail him at danny@adminamerica.com to inquire about these opportunities that will benefit both you and your Squadron. His mind is a mass reservoir of information about the various positions. Now is the time.

Enthusiastically,

Ed Troncalli, SN



The Waterlog

The *Waterlog* is published monthly, with at least 10 issues per year.

It is published by and for the squadron members by the staff of the Squadron Secretary and is mailed to the listed address of all current members and advertisers.

All members in good standing, and approved non-member advertisers may submit articles and items for publication. They receive no gratuity.

The editors reserves the right to revise, change or reject any materials submitted to the *Waterlog*, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, good taste and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.

Please send comments and suggestions to:-

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Squadron Happenings

MEMBERS MEET

At the General Membership meeting on 21 August, Commander Ed Troncalli presented Commander's Helm Awards to the following members:



Lts. Patti and Doug Watson, for exceptional boating activities and social events



Lt. Randy Tahsler, for exceptional member recruitment



Lts. Lisa and David Herndon, for publishing the *Waterlog*



Cdr Troncalli also recognized **Lt/C Jeff Wise** for completing the requirements for the grade of Navigator.



Bob and Carolyn Wilson presented the evening's program with highlights of their extended cruise to the Bahamas.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron is having great success in using computer technology to distribute timely information to our membership and to reduce our publication expenses. Thanks to our many computer-savvy members for enthusiastically embracing this innovative technology.

More people are needed to help with maintaining the Web site, preparing the DR Mail email bulletins, and electronic publication of the *Waterlog*. Even if you can only contribute a small amount of time (a particular page on the Web site, for example), this would still be a great way to help out the squadron. Please contact Keith Blanton at (678) 773-0328, or by email at kb@maxrd.com.

NEW OFFICER



The Squadron Executive Committee met on 11 Sep at the Hickory House in Dunwoody. The ExComm approved the appointment of Sheryl LaBoda to Lieutenant. Sheryl will serve as assistant to Squadron Treasurer. Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, JN.

Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, Treasurer welcomes Lt. Sheryl LaBoda as new Asst Treasurer

NAME THAT, uh, THING

The Youth Activities Team of the Membership Committee needs your help. We are trying to find a name for our new mascot. If you can think of a really cool name and your name is picked, we'll give you a \$100 savings bond. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and email address.

Send your entries to: P/C Kathleen E. Bisogno, AP, 345 Silver Lagoon Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753; bisog-nok@hotmail.com



Squadron Happenings



SHOW YOUR COLORS

Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron burgees are available from Lt/C Margaret Sherrod. These are the newly designed burgees commemorating the squadron's fiftieth anniversary. The cost is \$25. Contact Margaret by e-mail at mmsherrod@bellsouth.net.

YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

It's time for the seventh annual USPS Youth Poster Contest to begin. All children are eligible to compete in three age categories: 6-8 years, 9-11 years, and 12-14 years. Contest rules are:

- The theme is "Water Smart + Boat Smart = Fun!!"
- The entry must be on 15"x20" or 14"x22" inch poster paper.
- The entry must be vertical in orientation.
- Participants may sketch the design lightly with pencil, but the end result must be in color.
- All types of media, except professional illustrations, photos, copy-righted material or computer-generated art, may be used.
- Do not fold the poster.
- The contest entry form must be completed and attached to the back of the poster.
- Limit: one entry per person.



gen-

All entries become the property of USPS, which reserves the right to display, modify for future reproduction or otherwise use the entries. Every entry should be judged at the squadron level before the Spring Conference in 2004. There should be a winner for each age group. Each squadron's first place posters (one for each age group) should be brought to the Spring Conference, 2004 for District 17 judging. The winners of the district judging will be taken to the Fall Governing Board Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. The final evaluation for national winners in each age group will be done at that time. The poster will be judged for the idea presented more than for the artistic ability demonstrated. Participants do not have to be related to USPS members. The contest is open to all.

Thank You!!

Thanks to all who have chosen to receive the *Waterlog* electronically. There are about fifty of you who receive this publication via a link to our website. This translates into about \$900 in annual savings. If you have not yet done so and would like to join the "E-generation," please e-mail us at waterlog@usps-atlanta.org.

INSTRUCTORS HONORED



Another festive gathering took place on Sat, 20 Sept, at the Aqualand Marina Pavilion. The occasion was the annual Low Country Boil to honor our able group of instructors, once again showcasing the culinary talents of Lt. Elliot "Shrimp Boy" Hammer, S.



Squadron Happenings

MEMBER SURVEY

Please complete and return your survey right away so the ASPS Roster Committee can prepare the next squadron roster in a timely and efficient manner.. Please clip the form below, complete the requested information and mail it to the Squadron Secretary at: Lt/C Keith Blanton, P. O. Box 767849, Roswell, GA 30076
Alternatively, the squadron secretary can be reached by phone at (678) 773-0328, and by email at kb@maxrd.com

First Name: _____ MI _____ Last name: _____

Member Nbr: _____ Type Membership: _____

Member Since: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Home tel: _____ - _____ - _____ Bus tel: _____ - _____ - _____

Mobile tel: _____ - _____ - _____ Boat tel: _____ - _____ - _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____ . _____

Spouse: _____ Birthday: _____

Rank _____ Grade: _____ Merit Marks: _____

Awards: _____

Committees: _____

Electives (circle courses completed): CP EM IQ ME OT S W

Boat name: _____ Type: _____

Home Port: _____

Certifications: _____

Ham Operator? Y N Call sign _____

Mail to: Lt/C Keith Blanton,
P. O. Box 767849,
Roswell, GA 30076

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Buechele
Carla Schissel (wife)
1886 Windemere Dr. N.E.
Atlanta Ga. 30324 404-874-4609
pbuechele@aol.com

Ron Marcotte
1207 Weatherstone Way
Peachtree City Ga. 30269
770-631-3084
rmarcott@bellsouth.net

Kenny Tyus
1345 Towne LK Hills Dr,
#20-309
Woodstock, GA 30189
770-516-7813
redjeptj@prodigy.net

Catherine Mann
2093 Dellwood Dr
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-351-9290

ONLY ABOUT 80 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT...

We will add a new dimension to the Squadron Christmas Party this year—a silent auction! This will be a perfect opportunity to pick up the Christmas present you wanted to but couldn't find. It will also be a great fund raiser for our Power Squadron.



If you have a business, or if you know of a business that would like to donate a gift or a service to this worthy cause, please contact Lt Tim Tyson, S. Let Tim know prior to any solicitation of the business to ensure they are not contacted multiple times, and to make arrangements to receive the items.

Put on your thinking caps, and we'll see you at the party!!



The Sail class is intent on every word.



From the Bridge

Education Officer



Fall Classes Begin!

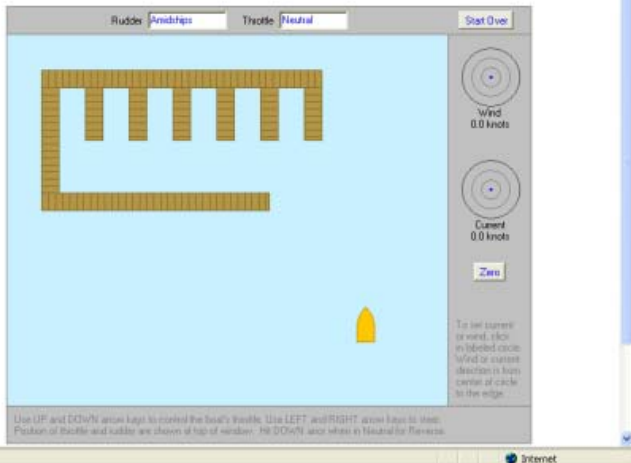
Fall classes began on Monday evening at 7:00PM at the Heiskell School in Atlanta. The classes taking place this fall include Seamanship (Schoonover & Williams), Advanced Piloting (Sewell), Junior Navigation (Hayes), and Sail (Sherrod). Class attendance has been very good. We have 26 students in Seamanship, 8 in Advanced Piloting, 7 in Junior Navigation, and 7 in Sail.

Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, AP
edu@usps-atlanta.org

In January, we will begin our Spring Classes of Piloting, Marine Electronics, and Cruise Planning. Sign up for these classes will begin in Early October so keep checking the website for information.

Boat Smart

The next Boat Smart Class is scheduled for 11 Oct and 18 Oct from 1030 to 1530. The class will be given at the New Horizons Learning Center at 4053 LaVista Road. Directions can be obtained by going to the Boat Smart area of the ASPS website. Tell all your friends about it and let's have a good turn out!



Web Site of the Month

We should not limit our educational opportunities to just the classes offer by the squadron. Thus, I am starting this new section to bring to the attention of our squadron members interesting and educational web sites I have found. If you know of any good sites for finding useful boating information or interesting articles relevant to our membership, just drop me an email and we will tell everyone about it.

This month's addition is a docking simulator where you can change the direction and magnitude of current to challenge your ability to get into the slip without hitting the dock. The dock simulator can be found at www.spot.pcc.edu/~mtrigobo/docksim/index.htm



Lt/C Hans Meier, JN
Executive Officer
xo@usps-atlanta.org



Lt/C Keith Blanton, P
Secretary
secretary@usps-atlanta.org



Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, JN
treasurer@usps-atlanta.org



Lt/C Jeff Wise, N
Administrative Officer
admin@usps-atlanta.org



Advanced Pilot candidates hard at work.

The Bulletin Board



Limited Time Offer!
 The USPS has a reciprocity agreement with the Yacht Clubs of America for the use of their facilities through December 2003. This is a privilege, not a right, and YCA events may preclude offering reciprocity to USPS members at any time, so always call to confirm dates and availability. You can visit their website at ycaol.com for information on club locations, their services and contact numbers. Use **IDname: club1040, and password: y10046c.** You must present a current USPS membership card as identification. Enjoy these benefits as they may not be renewed in 2004.



Holiday Party
 The annual Holiday party will be Saturday 20 Dec, 2003 at the Founders Club in Roswell. In celebration of our 50th year, it will be a special gala event. Mark your calendars



Members Who Are Shut-In
 If you become aware of members who are ill, convalescing, or just in need of a visit, please contact our chaplain, John Speiser. John can be reached at 770-514-8788, or by e-mail at

USPS EVENTS: OCTOBER 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Ex Comm Mtg	10 Dist 17 Fall Conf	11 Dist 17 Fall Conf
12 Dist 17 Fall Conf	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Membership mtg	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

USPS EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Leaf peaking cruise(?)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Ex Comm Mtg	14	15 Chili Cook-off
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29

General Membership Meeting at the Foghorn Grill, 3230 Medlock Bridge Rd, Norcross, GA

ExComm Meetings at the Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, GA



Life on the Water

Welcome to the Weems & Plath 75th Anniversary

"Adventure in Navigation" contest!



THE CONTEST

The contest starts September 16, and will run for 75 days. Each Tuesday during the contest period, six new questions will be posted online, for a total of 54 questions. Questions are multiple choice and true-false, and cover a variety of subjects from famous explorers, navigation methods, and the storied history of Capt. Weems, to Weems & Plath products. Answer correctly, and earn points. The contestant with the most points on November 10, wins. Winners will be notified by December 15, 2003.

To register, go to <http://www.weems-plath.com/contest.htm>. Once registered, the player will be allowed into the game site and will be able to print the questions provided for that week or any previous week of the contest. The player can indicate and submit his/her answers on-line and an automatic response will be sent within 24 hours acknowledging receipt. All answers must be submitted on-line. Contestants may answer questions at any time during the Contest Period. Each correct answer receives one point.

GLOSSARY OF TIDAL TERMS

Source: Chapman Piloting, 63rd ed., p.330

Diurnal tides. Only a single high water and a single low water take place each day.

Semi-diurnal tides. Two high water levels and two low water levels occur in each approximately 24-hour period.

High water or high tide. The highest level reached by an ascending tide.

Low water or low tide. The lowest level reached by a descending tide.

Range. The difference between high water level and the following low water, or vice versa.

Mean low water. (MLW) The average height of all low waters at a place over a 19-year cycle.

Mean lower low water (MLLW). The average height of the lower low waters over a 19-year cycle.

Mean high water. The average height of all high waters over a 19-year cycle.

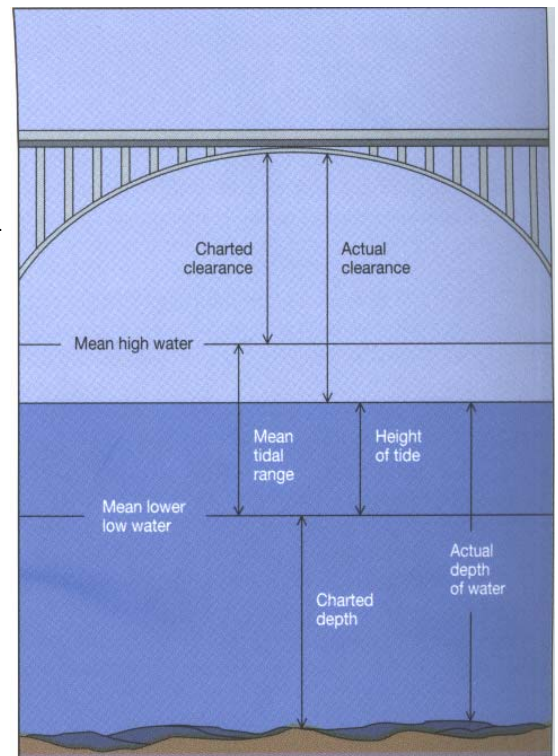
Mean higher high water. The average height of the higher high waters over a 19-year cycle.

Tidal datum. A reference level from which heights and depths are measured. On a chart this is known as a chart datum; this is the most important level of reference to the mariner. The level used as chart datum is normally low enough so that low waters don't go far below it. Tide heights are normally positive, but the height can be a small negative number, if the low water level falls below the datum. In the U.S., mean lower low water is used as tidal datum. Tidal data in the U.S. are determined relative to a 19-year period called a Tidal Datum Epoch. The most recent one was 1960-1978.

Height of tide at any specified time is the vertical measurement between the surface of the water and tidal datum. Do not confuse height of tide with depth of water.

Mean sea level. The average height of the surface of the sea for all stages of tide. It differs slightly from mean tide level (or half tide level), which is the plane midway between mean high water and mean low water. It is not used in navigation.

Stand. The point when vertical movement ceases.



Mean lower low water is the reference datum for all NOS tide heights. Bridge clearances are measured from mean high water. Tidal range is the difference between these two levels.



AFTerthoughts

WHEN PART OF YOUR DAY IS MISSING...

Statistics show that the number of boats stolen in Georgia in an average year can be counted on one hand. We joined the ranks of the (un)lucky few who discover a favorite part of their lives was missing about six weeks ago.

We left church on a Sunday in mid-August, and headed directly to the lake. Our agenda? Lunch at the marina, an afternoon cruise and a nap in a secluded cove. In other words, a typical Sunday afternoon for us. We were more than a little surprised when we got to our dock and found our slip empty. The *Lisa Gail* was missing. Someone had stolen our boat.

After several weeks of police reports, insurance forms, and sending out flyers, we have accepted the fact that our boat is gone and won't be back. We've experienced the feelings of violation and anger that undoubtedly attend the victims of any personal crime.

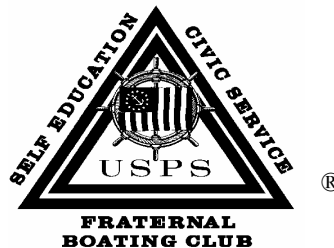
But the really tough part is: we don't have a boat! As you well know, a boat can become part of the family. Our boat was our getaway, our escape from the pressures of work and family and commitments—not to mention our transportation to squadron raft-ups. We really loved those occasions every few days when we could leave the office an hour or so early, head to the lake and watch the sun go down.

We're going to do something about that. Sometime in the future, near or otherwise, we'll have another boat. You might take us out of the boat, but you can't take the boat out of us.

In the meantime, we've realized another reason we joined the Power Squadron. The friends we've made have helped fill the gap, offering lots of support, suggestions on boats for sale and some great water time on their boats. In fact, one member of our bridge, who shall remain unnamed, nearly did a u-turn across the median when he thought he saw our boat being towed in the other direction.

The lessons learned here? Keep a full set of all important documents, serial numbers, etc. in a location off the boat. A notebook or portfolio that you take on and off the boat is a practical way to do this. Make sure your boat is secure in its slip. Consider a chain lock, especially if you have outboards. Make sure your insurance is up to date and reflects any improvements made. And be very grateful for your wonderful, supportive friends and fellow boaters in the Power Squadron.

Lisa & David Herndon
1332 Cambridge Ct.
Atlanta, GA 30319



STAMP