

Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

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WATERLOG

United States Power Squadrons
Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club®



Big Changes in P and AP Courses

A Visit from the
Coast Guard Aux.

Ops Training
Coming Soon

Squadron Kicks Off 2nd Half Century

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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.

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Cover photo by Lisa Herndon: a No Wake buoy in Flowery Branch on a calm winter day.

Commander's Message



Cdr Hans Meier, JN

As I begin my tenure as Commander, I want to recognize several individuals whose service to the Atlanta Squadron, and to the national organization has been exemplary.

First, we recognize two new Life Members; i.e., members who earned 25 merit marks.

These are P/C David Sewell and P/D/C Norm Oien. We extend our congratulations to them on achieving this important milestone, and our gratitude for their dedicated service.

In addition, we acknowledge the 2004 winner of the Nelle B. Moon Distinguished Service Award, Lt Patti Watson. This award is given annually to members who distinguish themselves in selfless dedication to the squadron, while not serving in the Bridge or Executive Committee. I think all will agree that Patti is most deserving of this award.

Finally, I want to recognize the first three recipients of the Commander's Lighthouse Award: P/C Danny Tompkins, Lt/C Jeff Wise and Lt/C Margaret Sherrod. Danny has been a mentor to me and has helped me prepare for this year in the primary leadership position. And without Margaret's and Jeff's able assistance over the past year, my job as Executive Officer would have been far more difficult.

For those who were not able to attend the Change of Watch, the following is a transcript of my acceptance speech:

"I want to thank the nominating committee for putting me in this position and the membership committee for having confidence in me and casting their vote at the annual meeting. I am the 'young kid on the block' in the number of years as a member. I have learned a lot working my way up the Bridge over the past four years and I need all your support to make it work.

A number of interesting facts about 2004:

- I am the 50th different person to serve as Commander of this organization;
- This is the beginning of Atlanta Sail and Power's next 50 years;
- This is the 50th Anniversary of District 17;
- Our organization is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

My main goal this year is to have all members involved and have something for all members to be involved with, which will make their membership a great and valuable experience.

This year I have attempted to put together the most aggressive activity year that Atlanta Sail and Power has had in a number of years. I am calling it the "2004 Grand Activities Smorgasbord."

Here is a quick overview 2004 Activities

- Ten monthly dinner meetings with Programs and activities without a Summer Break
- A number of new member orientation activities to get new members off to a fast start

(Continued on Page 3)



Squadron Happenings

ATLANTA SQUADRON BEGINS 2ND HALF-CENTURY

Approximately seventy-five members and guests attended the Atlanta Squadron's fiftieth Change of Watch at the Dunwoody Country Club on Sunday, 22 Feb 2004. Following a social hour, the participants enjoyed an elaborate buffet lunch.

Flag Lts Bill and Cathy Gruber presented the colors at approximately 1300 hours, and Cdr Ed Troncalli, SN, called the meeting to order. Cdr Troncalli extended a warm welcome to all present and recognized several guests, including past and present squadron and district commanders, and those serving on district and national committees. Cdr Troncalli gave brief remarks summarizing accomplishments during 2003, and the state of the Squadron at the beginning of 2004. The text of Cdr Troncalli's speech can be found on page 5.

D/C Gary Meinken recognized new Life Members David Sewell, SN, and Norm Oien, AP. Life Members are members who have earned 25 Merit Marks. Since it is possible to earn at most one Merit Mark per year, Life Membership represents a major milestone of service to the local and national organization. David is a long time member of the Atlanta Squadron, and a well-respected instructor of Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses. Norm is a past district commander, is now a member of the Chattanooga Squadron and an Associate Member here in Atlanta.

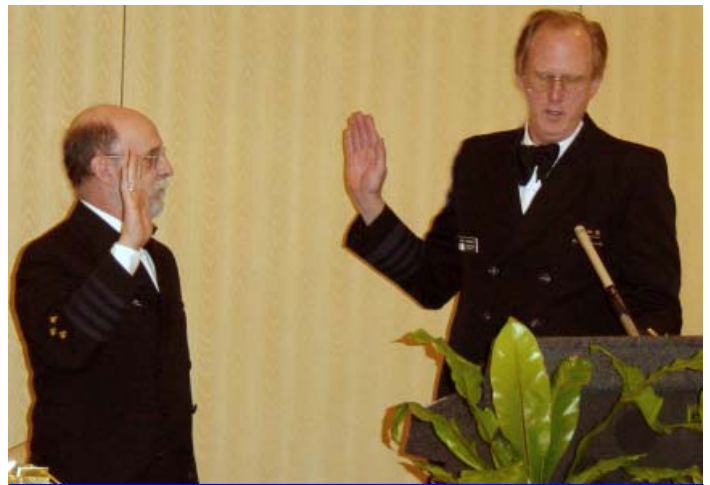
Lt Mac Barrier, P, presented the Nelle B. Moon Distinguished Service Award to Lt Patti Watson for her outstanding work in planning and coordinating the many squadron activities over the past year. Mac was the 2002 winner of the award.

D/Cdr Gary Micken administered the oath of office to Cdr-elect Hans Meier, JN.

(continued on page 4)



D/C Gary Meinken recognizes new Life Member Norm Oien



Cdr-elect Hans Meier takes the oath of office from D/C Gary Meinken



Lt Patti Watson receives Nelle B. Moon Award from Lt Mac Bar-



P/C David Sewell, JN, proudly displays his Life Member certificate.



The 2004 Bridge. L to r: Lt/C Frank Taylor, Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, Lt/C Jeff Wise, Lt/C Sheryl Laboda, and Lt/C Kevin Schoonover.

Squadron Happenings

ATLANTA SQUADRON BEGINS 2ND HALF-CENTURY

(continued from page 3)



Lt/C Jeff Wise, l, assists Cdr Hans Meier, r, present an antique bell to P/C Ed Troncalli, c.

Cdr Meier then swore in his bridge: Executive Officer Lt/C Jeff Wise, N; Administrative Officer Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, JN; Secretary Lt/C Frank Taylor, P; Treasurer Lt/C Sheryl Laboda, S; and Education Officer Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, AP.

The text of Cdr Meier's acceptance speech appears in the "Commander's Message", page 2. He recognized P/C Troncalli by presenting him with the Past Commanders burgee, a plaque and an antique bell.

Following in the tradition of past commanders establishing their personal awards to recognize

exceptional contributions, Cdr Meier instituted the Commander's Lighthouse Award. He presented the first three of these awards to P/C Danny Tompkins, Lt/C Jeff Wise and Lt/C Margaret Sherrod for their outstanding service to the Squadron.

The colors were retired and the meeting was adjourned with Cdr Meier's first ringing of the ship's bell.

Commander's Message

(continued from page 2)

- Eight on-the-water events with educational and safety programs included, along with great opportunities for fellowship
- Annual Fall Leaf Cruise in November (maybe the leaves will be in color)
- Two large activities: An ICW Cruise in May starting in Savannah along with squadrons in the area, and a Tennessee River Cruise In July with other squadrons from our District
- Annual Chili Cookoff
- Numerous Atlanta Sail and Power Auxiliary functions lead by First Officer Cathy Gruber
- Fully catered Holiday Party with another great silent action
- January 2005 Annual meeting
- February 2005 Change of Watch
- Nine educational classes plus Operational Training and Instructor Development. We will also have a number of other small educational supplement classes such as Chartsmart, GPS, Power Point and Astronomy to support the number of changes National has made to Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation and Navigation in 2004.
- At least four Boatsmart classes, with others if needed.
- Annual Boating Safety weekend at more than eight locations
- Vessel Safety Program should be the best yet.

All of the above activities will be ... reported in our "Waterlog", which was recognized for "Distinction in Journalism" at the USPS national meeting for the second consecutive year. You may occasionally see it's little helper, the "Watertwig".

In addition, all the activities, times, places, dates, additional information and pictures will be on our award-winning Web site. This will be embellished by timely "DR's", giving us up-to-date information electronically...

But just like a smorgasbord every member will not be able or expected to go to or partake of everything. My goal with this large program is to have something for everyone ... which is the only way we can keep members, get new members and grow the organization.

The only way that this "2004 Grand Activities Smorgasbord" will work is with the Best Bridge, Best Executive Board, and Best support staff that a Commander can ask for...

Thanks for allowing me to be your Commander in 2004. I look forward to a great year along with your involvement and support. I could look out and say that the support for my year has already begun with the great attendance here today at this Change of Watch. But I would only be kidding myself because we are all here to honor my favorite teacher and our new Life Member David Sewell, along with our Associate Member Norm Oien, who also received his Life Membership.

Thank you."



Lt/C Margaret Sherrod and Lt/C Jeff Wise celebrate their Commander's Lighthouse Awards with Cdr Hans Meier. present an antique bell to P/C Ed Troncalli, c.

Squadron Happenings

MARCH MEETING TO FEATURE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY OFFICER

By Lt/C Margaret Sherrod

Have you ever wondered what the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is all about? Find the answer to that question at the March Membership Meeting on 18 March 2004. Roy Crittenden, currently the Lake Lanier Flotilla Public Affairs Officer and the Division 2 Vice Captain will be our guest speaker.

Roy has been active in the Auxiliary for the past eleven years and has held several positions at the Flotilla, Division and District levels. He has a Coxswain rating and performs safety patrols on Lake Lanier in his 27-foot cruiser. His introduction to boating safety was at a Power Squadron course in Birmingham.

Roy will share with us, among other things, the history of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, its organizational structure, its relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard, local activities in the Atlanta area, and cooperative programs with the Power Squadron. There will be time for questions following his remarks.

Dinner begins at 1800 and the meeting will start about 1900. All member meetings from March through October will be held on the third Thursday of the month at the Foghorn Grill, 3230 Medlock Bridge Road, Norcross, near the intersection with Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. A map can be found in the new 2004 Roster, and directions are available on our website, www.usps-atlanta.org. Reservations are not required; however please help us ensure that there will be enough tables by letting us know that you will be attending. Please RSVP on-line at our website or email or call Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, admin@usps-atlanta.org, 404/351-2976.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on the 18th!

OPERATIONS TRAINING DAY PLANNED

By P/C Danny Tompkins and Lt/C Margaret Sherrod

The United States Power Squadron is many things to many people. And many times it is confusing. Our organization is large and historic. With that size and history comes a lot of structure and terminology. Believe it or not, there is some method to all of this jargon.

March 21 will be a fun day devoted to understanding this great organization. The program is called "Operations Training". It is an extensive look into the organizational structure and nomenclature of the United States Power Squadron from the local Squadron to the District to the National Level. It promises to be a fun and educational day. The best part is we are invading P/C Ed and Genie Troncalli's great home on Lake Lanier for the day. Ed has even said we can ring the bell. Plan on arriving by 9:30 and we should finish before 4:00 with a lunch break that may well include some boating. This is a great opportunity for anyone, especially to our newer members to become more involved with our organization. So, please put March 21 on your calendar. RSVP to P/C Danny Tompkins danny@adminamerica.com or (H) 770-992-4118 or (B) 770-992-5959.

BOATING SAFETY WEEK, 22-28 MAY

It won't be long until the weather becomes a little more cooperative and the regular boaters will be out on the water. In keeping with the Power Squadron's long standing advocacy of safe boating, the Atlanta Squadron is planning to visit eight marine stores in the Atlanta area on 22 May to distribute boating safety literature and to encourage boaters to attend our next Boat Smart classes.

"The store managers really appreciate us being there," said Safety Chairman Elliot Hammer, S. "In addition to providing information, we hope to be able to perform Vessel Safety Checks at one or two of the locations as well."

PLANNING THE ICW CRUISE

By Lt Patti Watson

There is still time to join the ICW Cruise scheduled for 1-8 May. An information meeting will be held Tuesday, 9 March, at 1930 hrs (7:30 PM) or all interested people, whether you have a boat or if you need a ride or if you just curious or like a party. This is going to be a **GREAT** experience, and you don't want to be left at the dock. The meeting will be at Paul & Edy Marsal's home @ 525 Valley Hall Dr., in Dunwoody. 770-394-5247 (the number in the Roster is incorrect

From I-285, exit N. Peachtree Rd go north to Tilly Mill Rd (3rd light) Left onto Tilly to Mill to dead end at Mt Vernon Rd. Turn right on Mt. Vernon, then left onto Jett Ferry. Turn left onto Spaulding. Go approximately 1/2 mile to River Gate subdivision. Turn right, then another right onto Valley Hall. The Marsals are the third house on right. Follow walk to back entrance. (See DR for map.)

If you have any questions or comment call Patti or Doug Watson @ 770-458-1649. We hope to see you on Tuesday.

* * * * *

Squadron Happenings

PAST COMMANDER TRONCALLI REFLECTS ON HIS YEAR AT THE HELM

The text of P/CEd Troncalli's speech delivered at the Change of Watch 22 Feb 2004 follows:

"A year ago, I had the honor to ring the Squadron's ship's bell for the first time. Today I have rung the bell for the last time. I am pleased to report that the year between the ringings has been most enjoyable and rewarding. A year ago, I told you that we had P/Cs John Fowler, Don Williams & Danny Tompkins to thank for coaching me while I served on their Executive Committees. Today we owe them a big thanks for their continued guidance this past year.

With your enthusiasm, our Squadron Officers, Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons with their committees were able to do a brilliant job this past year living up to the United States Power Squadrons Mission Statement: "To promote recreational boating safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members". Thanks to the Squadron Officers and all the members serving on committees for the hard work and time that you put in to make our Squadron's Fiftieth Anniversary a year to remember!

Because of your dedication this past year, our Squadron is the recipient of numerous personal and unit awards at both the National and District levels. Let's give ourselves a big applause for our accomplishments!

Special thanks go to my wife Genie for her support throughout this year.

In a few minutes, our D/C Gary Meinken, will swear in our new Squadron Officers. The officers-elect are an excellent choice to carry forward the traditions and responsibilities of our award-winning Squadron.

More than one-fourth of our nation's population participates in recreational boating. Over 13 million vessels are registered, which does not include millions of vessels that do not require registration such as small sailboats, canoes and kayaks. Billions are spent each year on recreational boating. Prior to the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, nearly 2000 people died needlessly each year because they did not take basic precautions such as wearing life jackets. Today with more than double the boats, less than 700 souls are lost each year. Many lives have been saved because of the efforts of the volunteers of the United States Power Squadrons.

Education is now more important than ever with more and more boaters on the water each year. Our Squadron helps to prevent boating accidents that would have been a result of lack of basic boating skills and knowledge on the part of boat operators. We do this through our volunteer work: Public Boat Smart Classes, Vessel Safety Inspections, Safety Week participation and Boat Show Exhibits. Probably the best thing we do is to set a good example.

The United States Coast Guard's transition from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Homeland Security has brought a new challenge to the United States Power Squadrons. Because we have Memorandums of Agreement between us, we have been asked to incorporate Homeland Security into our agenda. Our ports are handling over 350 billion tons of cargo at a value of over 1 trillion dollars annually. Our sister Squadrons are assisting in keeping a watchful eye over these port activities. We, here in the Atlanta area, also can do our part in protecting our national and local assets such as our water supplies and dams.

We now have Marine Safety, Pollution, Security and Cooperative Charting to focus on. Under the guidance of our new slate of Squadron Officers and with your support, our squadron is up to the challenge of our expanded mission.

Thanks again to all of you that have made the Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron's Fiftieth Anniversary a remarkable year.

??? Mar PUZZLER ???

A man was sitting at a lunch counter enjoying a cup of coffee. He was watching a young man next to him consulting the sports page of the newspaper, then making notes in a notebook. He saw that the lad was adding columns of numbers as follows: $6.1 + 3.2 + 9.0 = 19$. The man said to youngster that he had made a mistake in his addition. The boy replied, "No, I didn't. See?" and pointed to the sports page. The man said, "Sorry, you are absolutely right." Why was the addition correct?

Answer next month

??? Feb PUZZLER Answer???

You have 10 bags, each containing 20 coins, and a very sensitive scale. Nine of the bags contain legitimate coins; one bag contains very good counterfeit coins. The counterfeit coins are identical in every way to the legitimate coins except that each counterfeit coin weighs 0.1 gram less than a legitimate coin. How can you tell which bag contains the counterfeit coins with one, and only one, weighing?

Answer: Assume you know the weight of a legitimate coin is 50 grams. Align the 10 bags of coins and number them 1-10. Select the number of coins from each bag corresponding to its number: 1 coin from bag 1, 2 coins from bag 2, 8 coins from bag 8, etc. Be careful to keep the selected coins in separate piles. Put each of the selected piles on the scale and read the result. If all coins were legitimate, the weight would be 2750 grams ($1 \times 50 + 2 \times 50 + \dots + 10 \times 50$). Since some of the coins are the lighter counterfeit coins, the weight will be less than 2750 grams. Subtract the actual weight from 2750 and multiply the result by 10 to determine the bag number of the bag of counterfeit coins.



From the Bridge

BIG CHANGES in P and AP COURSES

(text provided by Ben Owen)

The most exciting news is the new - REALLY NEW - Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses due out this September. With the assistance of MapTech, the courses have been completely redone and should be a great attraction for newer, younger, and more electronically savvy members. The Piloting course starts with GPS - it takes the student through setting it up, using it, and then approaches the more traditional piloting methods with what you need to know when the GPS doesn't function. So all the old ways are there, but the hook, up front, is the GPS, modern electronic navigation and the techniques new boaters are most interested in.

Both courses are exercise driven, rather than emphasizing lots of reading. Piloting will be only one unit, with only an open book exam. Advanced Piloting will be two units, with a closed book exam after the first section, then an open book exam at the end. The courses will be full of modern graphic illustrations. A professionally published textbook *The Weekend Navigator*, to be published this year, written by our own Bob Sweet, will be the official course textbook for both courses. The courses will come with a CD that has the MapTech plotting software, the Bowditch Bay chart, and the 1210TR chart in digital format. (Bowditch Bay now looks like a real chart - over 100 corrections were made to the original.) Also on the CD will be dozens of other charts for those squadrons more interested in plotting in their own back yards, rather than Buzzard's Bay to Martha's Vineyard!

This CD will also start shipping with the next update of the Squadron Boating Course.

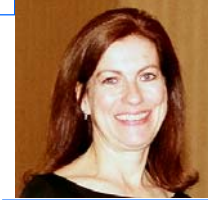
A new policy of the Education Department will be to eliminate outdated material, rather than attempt to re-coup some costs by discounting old versions... The new courses are so much better that we want to discourage the teaching of old material... Another [change] - at national meetings we will try ...to hold some interesting workshops; e.g., in New Orleans we all were invited to attend the new Instructor Development seminar and thus got our certifications, [and] in Reno we had the exam question writing seminar. In Pittsburgh, one of the workshops will be a "train the trainer" for the new P and AP classes.



*Lt/C Jeff Wise, N
Executive Officer*



*Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, JN
Administrative Officer*



*Lt/C Sheryl Laboda, S
Treasurer*



*Lt/C Frank Taylor, P
Secretary*



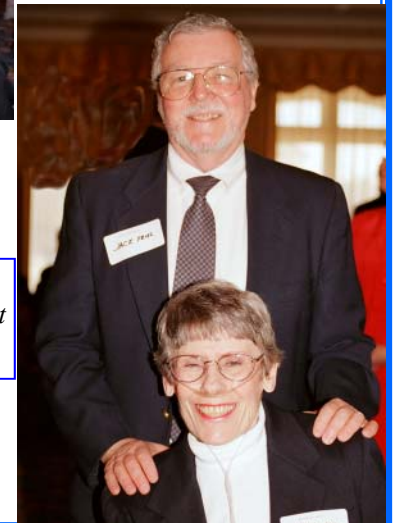
*Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, AP
Education Officer*



*P/C Don Williams, SN, recruits
future squadron members. at the
Change of Watch*

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE ALPHABET

A · —	M — —	Y — · — —
B — ...	N — ·	Z — — · ·
C — · — ·	O — — —	1 — — — —
D — · ·	P — · — ·	2 · · — —
E ·	Q — — · —	3 · · · —
F · · — ·	R · — ·	4 · · · · —
G — — ·	S · · ·	5 · · · · ·
H · · · ·	T —	6 — · · · ·
I · ·	U · · —	7 — — · · ·
J — · — —	V · · · —	8 — — — · ·
K — · —	W · — —	9 — — — — ·
L · — · ·	X — · · —	0 — — — — —



*Lt Jack Friel, SN, and Edna
Friel, AP, enjoy the fellowship at
the Change of Watch.*

The Bulletin Board

Check out the latest
District 17 Newsletter
at



Congratulations to P/D/Lt/C Phillip MacArthur, SN, and June Cartwright on their engagement! They plan a mid-June wedding.

- Things to do*
- Notify Patti Watson about participating in the ICW trip*
 - Make appointment to de-winterize the boat*

USPS EVENTS: MARCH 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ladies Aux. Lunch	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 ICW cruise meeting	10	11 Ex Comm Mtg	12 D17 Spring Conf	13 D17 Spring Conf
14 D17 Spring Conf	15	16	17	18 Gen'l Members Mtg	19 Water log input due	20
21 Opns Training	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

USPS EVENTS: APRIL 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Ex Comm Mtg	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Tax deadline; Genl Mbr Mtg	16 Waterlog input due	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Low Country Boil
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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



AFTerthoughts

What's wrong with this picture?

Puttering up Flowery Branch a few weeks ago, we watched the ubiquitous fishermen and women standing in their boats near the shore. With one foot on the gunwale and the other on the trolling motor switch, they would cast and reel in their lures, and occasionally pull in a bass - or a piece of driftwood.

One pair in particular caught our attention. Two men were dressed completely in camouflage garb. It was a bright sunny day and their clothing blended well with the earth tones of the surroundings – the brown-green of the calm, still water; the ochres of the creek bank; the grey of the surrounding winter woods. No fish would have ever noticed their presence.

Except for one small detail the fishermen must have overlooked - their bass boat was metallic candy-apple red with gold highlights that reflected the low winter sun like a flaming mirror. You could spot that boat at half a mile – not the fishermen, but the boat.

Maybe fish are color blind.....



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STAMP

