

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®



Special Edition: 2005 Change of Watch

**Windjammin'
in Maine**

**What Boaters
do in February**

**Down the
Canals of Europe**



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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.

Please send comments and suggestions to:-

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Cover photo : Maine Windjammer Cruises ship the Mercantile, built in 1916. See Article page 9.

Commander's Message



Cdr. Jeff Wise, N

It's the beginning of a new year, our 53rd! First, I'd like to express my appreciation to you the members-- appreciation in several ways. First, certainly, I appreciate your confidence in electing me to be your commander. As I look back over the history of the squadron and USPS, I'm in awe at the progress that we've made, the impact that we've had on our community, and the impact on our membership. This is a truly unique organization. I'm hard pressed to name another civic club or organization that can claim nearly 50,000 members, in all fifty states and Puerto Rico, that does as much to educate it's members, provides the close camaraderie that we enjoy, includes men and women with equal opportunities and respect, and has as much fun as we do.

Secondly, I appreciate the help and support of an outstanding group of Bridge officers, Executive Committee Members, Committee Chairs, and volunteers who make the squadron "go." They're the ones who really deserve our appreciation. I worried for some time over what kind of an award to give to follow on the tradition of the "Whale of a Job," the "Helm," and the "Lighthouse" awards. Then, while driving along the Tennessee River it dawned on me. We want to reward people who make the squadron "go;" hence, the "Golden Prop Award."

And Finally, I appreciate the friendship that you've shown Pat and me. I can honestly say that at no other time in my professional or personal life have I had so many wonderful friends with common interests, attitudes, and goals. Thank you, all.

We have an exciting year planned. At the moment, we're focused on the ICW trip (thanks to a wonderful organizing job from Carol Jordan), but beyond, Frank Taylor has a host of interesting speakers and meetings planned, we'll have On-the-Water events all summer long, a trip on the Tennessee River in September, and we're already planning for the meetings next winter. Each year we've been fine tuning and adding to the programs from the year before, trying to provide what the squadron members want. But that takes input from you. If you have ideas, suggestions, a speaker, or want to try something different, let us know. An active squadron like ours runs on ideas—we need yours.

Finally (I promise to make these messages shorter in the future!), at the Change of Watch most of you heard that my objective for this year was to make sure that every boater in Atlanta knows what the USPS is and what we offer. While the National USPS membership has been declining over the last 15-20 years, ours has stayed fairly constant at about 225. If we continue to offer an active, fun, educational and exciting program membership will take care of itself. But like the proverbial better mousetrap, people won't beat a trail to our door if they don't know about the mousetrap. P/C Ed Troncalli has organized an outstanding committee to help "spread the word." You'll soon begin to see flyers in boating stores, articles in the newspaper, and banners at events. But, we need your help, too.

Continued on page 6

Squadron Happenings

2005 CHANGE OF WATCH



Cliff Clifton, AP, 91, is greeted by Sidney Farber, P, 95

The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron celebrated its 51st Annual Change of Watch at the Dunwoody Country Club on 20 February 2005. A social hour was followed by an elegant brunch while members enjoyed slides of the year's events, a display of the newly handcrafted boat for upcoming boat shows and events, and browsed through ASPS historical records. The colors were posted as Lisa Herndon sang the "Star Spangled Banner". Cdr Hans Meier, JN, recognized past commanders and guest. Cdr

Meier noted that Cliff Clifton, 91 was one day older than the US Power Squadron and he was congratulated by Sidney Farber, age 95.



Sam Troncalli receives his 50 year award: L to R; Cdr Jeff Wise, Sam Troncalli, D/Lt/C Janis Owen, P/C Meier

Those members who had crossed the bar this year were given a special tribute, as Cdr Meier read "The Mariner's Prayer" in their honor.

Sam Troncalli, AP, received his 50 year pin and was recognized

as the only original charter squadron member of District 17 in the ASPS.

Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, Doug Watson; P/C Ed Troncalli, and Cdr Hans Meier were instated as USPS Senior Members for achieving five merit marks. Lt. Patti Watson received the first ASPS five-merit mark award.

Education Proficiency awards were given to Lt/C Jeff Wise, Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, Lt. Patti Price and Lt. Keith Blanton. Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, James Jordan and Lt. Glenn Laboda. Received Power of One awards.

Cdr Meier installed James and Robin McIntyre and Charlie and Lillian Cox as new members of the squadron.

David Herndon received the Nelle B. Moon Membership Involvement Award for the member who has served the squadron while not serving on the Bridge or Executive Committee. Lt/C Frank Taylor, Lt. Jack Friel and Sharon Meier received the Lighthouse Awards .



David Herndon receives the 2005 Nelle B. Moon Member Involvement Award. L to R with past Nelle B. Moon recipients Richard Morrison, SN; Jack Friel, SN, Mr. Herndon, Cdr Wise, 2004 recipient Lt Patti Watson and Walter Van Nostrand P

A special commemorative Commander's Lighthouse Award was bestowed on Lt/C Margaret Sherrod who was also recognized as the "smorgasbord" attendee of the most squadron events. Cdr Meier then presented gifts of service to the following members: Roy and Mary Stegall, Tim Tyson, Jack Friel, Patti Price, Lisa and David Herndon, Bob Leathers, Frank Taylor Margaret Sherrod, Glenn Laboda, Don Williams, Danny Tompkins, Ed Troncolli, Doug and Patti Watson, Sheryl Laboda, Kevin Schoonover and Jeff Wise.



Lt/C Margaret Sherrod receives the 2005 Commander's Lighthouse Award from Cdr Meier

The special guest speaker from District 17 was D/Lt/C Janis H. Owen, JN, who brought greetings from the District and

gave an update of special issues and upcoming events.



D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN swears in 2005 Commander Jeff Wise, N

D/LtC Owen installed Jeff Wise, N, as the Squadron's 2005 Commander. Cdr Wise then issued the oath of office to the 2005 Bridge. Cdr Wise introduced his 2005 platform and gave his first Golden Propeller awards to P/C Ed Troncolli, SN, and Lt/C Margaret Sherrod and a special gift of appreciation to now P/C Meier.

The colors were retired to "God Bless America" led by Betty Hart Taylor and Lisa Herndon, and a day of festivities, recognition and celebration came to an end in anticipation of the year to come.

Squadron Happenings

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marilyn Washburn

John "JD" Washburn

5 Lakeview Place

Avondale Estates, GA 30002

mwash01@emory.edu

Ben Olive

2088 Castleway Dr. NE

Atlanta, GA 30345

Ben@universalcogs.com

Caleb Atubeh

3552 Knollview Ct.

Decatur, GA 30034

404 286 9316

Charlie and Lillian Cox

6670 Carlin Court

Cummin, GA 30041

ChasFCox@msn.com

Mike and Martha Schneider

2024 Silver Hill Rd.

Stone Mountain, GA 30087

770- 496-4582

Doug and JoAnne Lackey

1264 Riversound Dr.

Marietta, GA 30068

JSLackey@bellsouth.net

Edy Marsal

525 Valley Hall Dr.

Atlanta, GA 30350

asec@usps-atlanta.org



L to R: Ike Grove, Wise family guest Carrie, Scott Wise, Jeanette Grove, Matt Wise, Sam Troncolli, Genie Troncolli, Ed Troncolli



Past Commanders: L to R: Bob Bruhns, AP; Ed Troncalli, SN; Danny Tompkins, AP; Don Williams, SN; Hans Meier, JN; Bob Leathers, AP; Gary Meinkin, JN; Ben Owen (D17)



New Senior Members with five merit marks: L to R: Kevin Schoonover, AP; Hans Meier, JN; Doug Watson; Ed Troncalli, SN; presenter Danny Tompkins, JN



Nominating Committee and Past Commanders receive gifts of appreciation L to R: Danny Tompkins, JN; Ed Troncalli, SN; Don Williams, SN

Hans Meier, JN, receives his Past Commander burgee from 2005 Commander Jeff Wise, N



Squadron Happenings

AUXILIARY DINES IN FINE STYLE

The ASPS Auxiliary kicked off its 2005 programs with a luncheon at the Art Institute of Atlanta on 17 February. Fourteen members enjoyed culinary delights and fine conversation as they were treated to the delicacies of the chefs-in-training.

All are welcome to join the Auxiliary for a nominal membership fee of \$10. The next event will be 19 April at the 57th Fighter Group at 1130 hrs. Bring your appetite and good humor and contact First Officer Nancy Leathers for details. The entire 2005 schedule of events can be found in the 2005 roster.



Auxiliary 2005 Officers with Cdr Hans Meier L to R: 1st Officer Nancy Leather, Cdr Meier, Treasurer Ruth Bruhns, Secretary Norma Van Nostrand, 2nd Officer Jeanette Hodgskin



Auxiliary at the Art Culinary Institute: Back row L to R: Ruth Bruhns, Nancy Leathers, Margaret Sherrod, Norma Van Nostrand, Winnie Clifton, Jeannette Hodgskin, Sharon Meier, Jan Grove. Front Row L to R: Bob Bruhns, Walter Van Nostrand, L.E. Clifton, Bob Ginsberg, Hans Meier, Ike Grove

MARCH MEETING SPEAKERS INTRODUCE THE DOLPHIN PROJECT

Carla Johnson and Mike Worlick were featured speakers at the March general membership meeting held 17 March. They introduced the Dolphin Project, founded in 1989, a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization engaged in conducting a long-term scientific study of Atlantic bottlenose dolphin along inner-coastal Georgia and southern South Carolina. Members seek to contribute to the understanding of marine mammals, expand the public's knowledge and concern for our environment, and protect dolphins through the sharing of data collected with scientists, government agencies and other interested organizations. After a big die-off of dolphin in 1989, scientists realized that



there were no records of how many dolphin had been impacted or what that percentage represented of the total population.

Now groups of volunteers study three areas: Abundance, Distribution and Residency. They are assigned geographic zones to cover in 3-hour shifts, cataloging, counting and photographing dolphins and their behavior. Teams include a team leader, a skipper, a data recorder and a photographer. Over 700 photos of dorsal fins, uniquely identifiable just as fingerprints are to human beings, have been catalogued. The teams make quarterly abundance surveys and photography trips on months in between surveys. Anyone interested in additional information may visit the web site: www.thedolphinproject.org or write The Dolphin Project, PO Box 10323, Savannah, GA 31412

ICW PLANNING MEETING - POTLUCK

Captains and crew are invited to a final planning meeting on 10 April at 1800 hrs at the home of James and Carol Jordan. The Jordan's will be providing a ham and everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish to share. Carol will distribute caps, visors and shirts. If anyone has not ordered and paid, contact Carol. Caps and visors are \$15



From the Bridge

THE 2005 BRIDGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005 SQUADRON OFFICERS

Commander	Jeff Wise	commander@usps-atlanta.org
Executive Officer	Margaret Sherrod	xo@usps-atlanta.org
Administrative Officer	Frank Taylor	admin@usps-atlanta.org
Secretary	David Herndon	secretary@usps-atlanta.org
Education Officer	Kevin Schoonover	edu@usps-atlanta.org
Treasurer	Sheryl LaBoda	treasurer@usps-atlanta.org
Assistant Treasurer	Tim Tyson	timtyson@earthlink.net
Assistant Secretary	Edy Marsal	asec@usps-atlanta.org
Asst Education Officer	Roy Stegall	rapidroy@bellsouth.net

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr Jeff Wise, Chairman
Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, Vice Chairman

F	Frank Taylor	David Herndon
	Kevin Schoonover	Sheryl LaBoda
	Hans Meier	Bob Leathers
	Patti Watson	Patti Price
	Carol Jordan	Tim Tyson
	Lisa Herndon	Bob Ginsberg
	Nan Putnam	

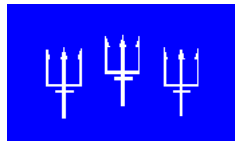


2005 ASPS Officers: 1st/L Roy Stegall, P; Lt/C David Herndon, AP; Cdr Jeff Wise; 1st/L Edy Marsal; Lt/C Frank Taylor, P; Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, P; Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, JN; Lt/C Sheryl Laboda, S; Lt/C Tim Tyson, S

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Please use every opportunity you have to "Fly the Flag." Literally, fly your burgee or USPS flag on your boat. Let people on your dock know that you're on your way to a Power Squadron raft-up. Invite them to come along! Get your VSC and offer to arrange for them to get inspected. If you're a Vessel Examiner, be sure to hand them one of the new ASPS tri-fold flyers and invite them to Boat Smart.

Last year, national's theme was "The Power of One." The ASPS theme this year will be "The Power of FUN!"



Cordially, Cdr Jeff Wise, N

???FEBRUARY PUZZLER ANSWER???

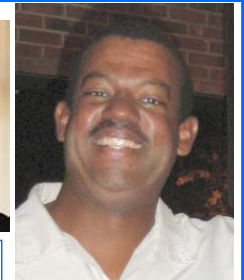
What English word changes from masculine to feminine and plural to singular (yes, plural to singular) with addition of an "s" at the end of the word?



Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, JN
Executive Officer



Cdr. Jeff Wise, N



Lt/C Frank Taylor, P
Administrative Officer



Lt/C Sheryl Laboda, S
Treasurer



Lt/C David Herndon, AP
Secretary



Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, AP
Education Officer



1st/L Roy Stegall, P
Asst. Squadron
Education Officer



1st/L Edy Marsal
Asst. Secretary



1st/L Tim Tyson, S
Asst. Treasurer

???MARCH PUZZLER???

An off-duty policeman is working as a night watchman at a marina. He's walking the docks and he strolls past a 30-ft cruiser. From inside the boat, he hears raised voices: an argument seems to be taking place. He hears someone say: "No, John, no! Don't do it, John, no!" Then there are three gun shots and a thud. The policeman leaps onto the boat and crashes into the cabin. He finds the following: a dead guy on the floor, a smoking gun, also on the floor; and three people in the room, alive and breathing—a power boater, a sailor and a boat mechanic. He walks over to the boat mechanic and arrests him. How did he know the mechanic did it?

The Bulletin Board

Check out the latest District 17 Newsletter at <http://www.usps-d17.org>

Burgees, USPS Ensigns (and other fun boat stuff) available at: www.boatfanatics.com

HELP WANTED
The Squadron is looking for a new webmaster. If you have the skills to maintain and occasionally update the squadron website, and can spare a couple of hours each month, we need your help. Please contact David Hern- don at secretary@usps-atlanta.com

Change of email : Bill Gruber: billcathygruber@bellsouth.net

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION!

16 April
1000-1200 hrs
Holiday Marina

Congratulations!!

Two new Advanced Pilots:

Roy Stegall and
Jim O'Neil
Passed the exam for Advanced Piloting!

WANTED: VESSEL SAFETY INSPECTORS
Anyone interested in a fun year of inspecting boats (And who enjoys seeing all the many kinds of boats) and promoting the Power Squadron and safety on the water and working on a merit mark too, call Doug Watson @ 770-458-1649.
We'll have a great time!!!
Current inspectors we have a wonderful opportunity to get a great start to the year. We have been asked to rally at the UNIVERSITY YACHT CLUB on **Sunday April 10 @ 12:00 noon** to inspect about 20 to 30 boats. Call Doug!!

USPS EVENTS: MAR 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 ExComm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 General Meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

USPS EVENTS: APR 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 D17 in Rome GA	2 D17 in Rome GA
3 D17 in Rome GA	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Univ Yacht Club VSE 1200 hrs - ICW mtg 1800 hrs @	11	12	13	14 Excomm Mtg	15	16 New Member orientation 1000-1200 hrs Holiday
17	18	19 Auxiliary @ 57th Fighter Squadron 1130 hrs	20	21 General Membership mtg	23 ICW	24
25 ICW Cruise	26 ICW Cruise	27 ICW Cruise	28 ICW Cruise	29 ICW Cruise	30 ICW Cruise	

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

WHAT BOATERS DO IN FEBRUARY

By Lt/C David Herndon, AP

Hi, there. I'm back.

You may recall a few months back I gave you some astute advice on selecting the Leader of the Free World based on his boating knowledge (see April 2004 issue). Well, that advice ranked right up there with John Jacob Astor's recommendation to Molly Brown to try that new ocean liner, the *Titanic*, on her next trip home. For reasons that completely escape me, no precinct reported a single vote for the Greg Norman-Russel Crowe ticket as I recommended.

You remember my very persistent editor? She has been on my case for weeks now to do a follow-up. I told her that everybody pretty much knows who won the election, and I wasn't sure what I could add to that. But since she has taken away my TV privileges until I come up with something, here goes....

So what do boaters do in February? The prevailing wisdom is "not much." After all, February is a bleak month in the dead of winter that is spelled funny. Unless you're the captain of an ice-breaker, why would you be out there on the water freezing off body parts while pretending to have a good time? Okay, I can think of a couple of reasons, but surely you can hold out until April.

The truth is, there's a lot to do in February. As the cold dark months go, February shines with a host of exciting opportunities for fun and frivolity.

The month opens with that treasured winter festival, Groundhog Day. Who can control their emotions as that furry little rodent pokes its head out of wherever it lives and decides what the weather will be for the next six weeks? One thing I've never quite understood about Groundhog Day. Is that varmint in Pennsylvania that only one who controls the weather, or does your average Joe Groundhog in Arkansas or Wyoming have similar powers? Do they talk about this in advance in a little underground chat room on www.checkyourshadow.com? Sorry, I digress. If you're like me, you can hardly wait for the Groundhog Day basketball game to come on.



With less than two weeks to get your life back in order after G Day, here comes V Day. Yes friends, it is St. Valentine's Day, the day for lovers. This is a really challenging holiday, especially for the guys. You can easily spend weeks coming up with just the right combination of gift, dinner, and proper attention for that special someone in your life. We all know there will be a special place in Purgatory for us if we don't. According to the V Day



by-laws, Purgatory can start as early as 6:00 pm on February 14 (1800 hours, 14 Feb) and will last at least until her birthday. Guys, it's absolutely essential that you stop thinking about that new sound system you need for the boat, or the brackets for the Final Four, and focus on this one day. It can make or break the rest of the year.

Then there's President's Day; another in the seemingly endless line-up of thrilling February holidays. If you're like me, you can hardly wait for the President's Day basketball game to come on.

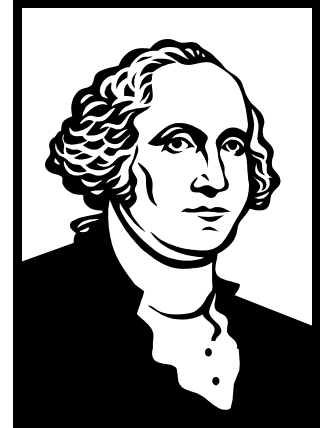
February almost always contains Fat Tuesday. Now there's a holiday you can relate to, especially if you happen to be in an area where it is celebrated. The biggest problem with Fat Tuesday is that it comes on Tuesday, for heaven's sake. Let me tell you, when you do Fat Tuesday right, Ash Wednesday at the office is not a lot of fun.

And just when you were thinking, "I never knew February could be so exciting" along comes Leap Year Day. Most people just ignore this day, unless it happens to be their birthday. I think that's wrong. Here's a special day that comes only once every four years. That, my friends, is a day to be celebrated. But there's something I never understood about Leap Year Day also. You know that old expression "...slow as Christmas," we use to refer to something that seems as if it will never arrive. Why Christmas? Christmas comes every single year. Leap Year Day only comes every four years. Wouldn't it make more sense to say "...slow as Leap Year Day," or "...slow as February 29"? Oops, digressing again. Surely there's a Leap Year Day game I need to watch.

So there you have it. The shortest month of the year is literally jam-packed with opportunities for fun and excitement.

But wait, there's more! Two other events that make February the absolute gem of the winter months are Girl Scout cookies and the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition. Here are a couple of items guaranteed to distract you from dreaming of those warm sunny days on the water. A sleeve of Thin Mints and the SISE - now that's heaven in a Lazy Boy. (Warning: if you look at one of those swimsuit models posing on a boat and you think, "Gosh, that reminds me of *my* boat," you need professional help.)

Till next time...





Life on the Water

CANAL BOATING IN FRANCE

By PLT/C Bill Gruber, N

When I volunteered as the newly appointed Squadron Education Officer to answer the Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron telephone in 1997, I had no idea what fate had in store for my wife Cathy and me.

“Would you know someone who would be interested in helping me move a canal boat from Amsterdam, through Belgium, into France?” a voice on the phone said. I thought for a moment, then answered: “Yes, I know someone who’s interested...me! Tell me what you have in mind, exactly.”

A few months later I found myself at the helm of “*Kingfischer*,” my wife Cathy and the owner aboard, negotiating the heavy traffic churning all around Amsterdam harbor. Suddenly I noticed an orange tugboat to port. It moved ahead and turned directly across our bow and then stopped dead in the water. “He must be crazy!” was my first reaction. Then as I quickly shifted from forward to reverse, I realized why the tugboat was deliberately blocking us. Slowly out of a side channel on the right a second orange tugboat appeared. The Steel cable behind it stretched longer and higher as it continued to pull. Then, directly across our intended track, emerged the black snout of a freighter being towed by the tug. It was huge. Slowly the block long wall of iron, which loomed five stories above us, slid majestically past nudged by a third tugboat at its stern. My video camera caught the passing of the ocean-going giant as it gradually picked up speed, heading for the open sea.

That was one moment I’ll never forget. There were, of course, other taxing moments as well.

I recall the late afternoon we cut our engine back and coasted gently to a gradual stop. As our starboard side touched the grassy bank, I stepped out and, walking a few feet ahead, hammered a 12 inch iron stake into the ground. I dropped a few upside down loops of line over the stake and then drew the line tight. This secured our bow. I did the same thing several feet aft to secure the stern. Three white swans tilted their heads, checked us out, then went back to drying their outstretched wings. Cathy stepped off the boat and we climbed up the path to the quaint French restaurant we had noticed up on the hillside. Later, sipping a cold glass of the local wine under the umbrella on the terrace overlooking the Meuse River where our little “home away from home” awaited us, I said to myself, “this canal boating is really not so bad after all.”



Bill and Cathy Gruber

WINDJAMMIN’ IN MAINE

Last August, John and Martha Fowler joined 19 other passengers and crew for a three-day cruise in the waters of Maine aboard the *Mercantile*, a 1916 reconditioned freighter, featured as the cover photo of this month’s *Waterlog*. One of three ships owned by Maine Windjammer Cruises, the *Mercantile* has a centerboard which it used to go ashore to pick up and deliver coal and lumber up and down the coast. It still has its original masts and deck and is



Sister ship the *Grace Bailey*, sets sail

trimmed in beautiful reconditioned wood. Today the *Mercantile* houses 29 passengers, including a skipper, a cook and two crew members. Passengers

may assist with the sails and are allowed to sail the ship under the watchful eyes of the skipper.

Martha and John arrived at 0500 on a Sunday, took the tour of the galley and the very cozy quarters, and then went ashore to explore the quaint nearby village of Camden, Maine. They spent the night at the docks and set sail early on Monday along with a larger sister ship, the *Grace Bailey*, with its 55 passengers. With a good wind they covered sixty miles in one day and anchored in a safe harbor. The cook treated everyone to lobster and steak, with plenty of snacks during the day. The Fowlers enjoyed breathtaking sunsets, congenial camaraderie and highly recommend the trip to everyone. The third member of the fleet is a ship that houses six to seven and can be used for private parties.



John Fowler, foreground, relaxes on the deck of the *Mercantile*

Contact 1-800-736-7981 to request a free tape. Email info@MaineWindjammerCruises.com or see their website at www.mainewindjammercruises.com



AFTerthoughts

Atlanta and the country experienced a time of terror, fear and sadness recently as Atlantans dealt with the Courthouse Killings, the subsequent manhunt and the dramatic surrender. Simultaneously, Milwaukee was rocked by the mass killings and suicide by a disgruntled church member.

It seems that violence and confrontation are part of our lifescape, unexpected, yet unavoidable.

While driving to work on Friday through a quiet residential area, a Cadillac SUV ahead of me in the right lane attempted to move to the left lane. Unfortunately, a small Toyota was already in the space the Cadillac wished to occupy. The Toyota driver blew the horn to warn the Cadillac, and the Cadillac swerved back to the right to avoid the collision.

That should have been the end of the story. But, of course, it wasn't. The Cadillac driver made an obscene gesture at the Toyota driver. Apparently, the Toyota driver returned the favor. The Cadillac driver then swerved toward the Toyota as if to ram it. The Toyota swerved left to avoid the collision, nearly going into the path of an oncoming car.

By now, I'm noting license numbers and getting ready to call the police.

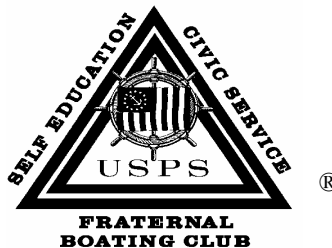
The back-and-forth between them continued for another half mile until they reached a major intersection. Windows were rolled down; there was a lot of yelling and gesturing. Then the Cadillac driver who was so intent on getting into the left lane a half mile earlier, turned right!

Observing this little vignette of commuting life, I found myself thinking of the terrible events of the previous week, and the devastation that uncontrolled anger and frustration can cause. I also thought about Ashley Smith, whose calm courage brought an end to twenty-four hours of terror for an entire city.

When we start out on the water for a new season in the next few weeks, we're going to encounter the jerks, the idiots, and the untrained. They are going to break all the rules, and possibly endanger us and our boats. Along the way, it's possible we'll make a mistake and incur the wrath of a fellow boater.

When this happens, keep in mind that no degree of vindication is worth a seriously damaged boat, or an injured passenger. The only way to control the spread of rudeness, and sometimes violence, is one person at a time. Ashley Smith should be a model for all of us.

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



STAMP

