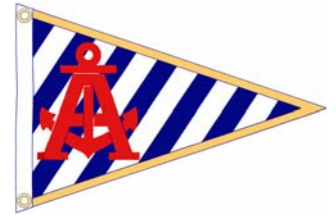


Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

www.usps-atlanta.org



WATERLOG



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

Meet our New Commander

News from the Gypsy Common

Maritime Trivia

Ten Biggest Surprises in Boating

In This Issue

Commander's Message	2
2006 Change of Watch	3
Classes are in Full Swing	4
Great Southern Boat Show	4
A 3,000 Mile Cruise	4
From the Bridge: Meet Your New Commander	5
Plans for the ICW 2006	6
Bulletin Board and Calendar	7
District News: D17 Spring Conference sign up/agenda	8
Greetings from <i>The Gypsy Common</i>	9
The 10 Biggest Surprises in Boating	9
Maritime Trivia	9
AFTerthoughts: Choices	10

Commander's Corner



Cdr. Margaret Sherrod, JN

Can you believe it? It's the beginning of a new squadron year and a new boating season!

I can't help but reflect back on all the wonderful times we had during our 53rd year under the strong leadership of now **Past** Commander Jeff Wise and his Executive Committee. Thanks to all of you who served on ExComm, and to each and every member who served on one of our committees. You have given us a tough act to follow. But I believe the incoming Bridge and Executive Committee are up to the challenge of sustaining and even building on the successes you've achieved.

We have a really exciting year planned and we will be embellishing our plans as new ideas surface throughout the year. Administrative Officer Lt/C David Herndon has some dynamite programs scheduled that you won't want to miss. He would, however, welcome additional ideas, suggestions or speakers you want to recommend. Lt Carol Jordan, our Boating Activities Chair, is finalizing the details for another exciting Intra-Coastal Waterway cruise (from Savannah to Charleston and back in May), and fleshing out plans for seven summertime on-the-water events on Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona. One activity we are bringing back is the annual Cardboard Boat Race with a challenge to all squadrons in District 17 to participate! The rules and specifications will be available next month. Lt Doug Watson has ambitious goals for Vessel Safety Checks and new Vessel Safety Examiners this year. Be sure to let him know when you want your Atlanta-area boat(s) inspected.

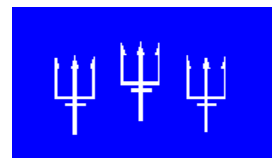
At the Change of Watch, we recognized a new Life Member, P/D/C Robert T. Leathers. Thanks, Bob, for your dedicated service to the United States Power Squadrons as reflected by your attainment of 25 merit marks. We also recognized several new Senior Members for attaining 5 merit marks: Keith Blanton, Randy Tahsler and Jeff Wise. Thanks to each of you for your involvement and participation in squadron leadership. In the Atlanta squadron, our highest honor is reserved for the one member who, while not a member of the Bridge or Ex-Comm, distinguished him/herself in selfless dedication to the squadron organization and in participation in squadron activities, The Nelle B. Moon Member Involvement Award. Lt Mary Stegall was honored as the 2005 recipient. Congratulations to each of these members for these significant achievements.

As many of you heard at the Change of Watch, my primary objective for the year is membership involvement. Through the Power of One program, we have had extraordinary success in attracting new members throughout P/C Wise's term. We now have over 240 active and family members in our squadron and a growing list of associate members, that is, members from other squadrons who want to keep up with what Atlanta is doing. Our challenge is to get and keep our new members involved in whatever aspect of our organization interests them: educational opportunities, boating activities, social events and programs, and civic service through our public classes like Boat Smart or through our courtesy Vessel Safety Checks. Lt Mary Stegall will head up our efforts to engage our newest members, to get them involved. Additionally, we also want to reach out to our longer-term members, to find out if we are meeting their expectations and how we can better meet their needs. P/D/C Bob Ginsberg will be assisting Mary and focusing on these valuable members who we don't want to overlook. Don't wait to be contacted by Mary or Bob. If you have suggestions, interests, ideas or comments, please give them a call or send them a note. We want to hear from each of you!

I feel particularly honored that the Nominating Committee and the Squadron's membership have granted me the opportunity to lead the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron through its 54th year. Thank you to all. With your help and involvement we will have a great year and continue a growing boating tradition of having fun!

Wishing you an involved 2006!

Margaret Sherrod



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. The deadline for monthly submissions to the Waterlog is the 15th of each month.

Please send comments and suggestions to:-

Lt. Lisa Herndon, AP
E-mail: waterlog@usps-atlanta.org

Thanks for assistance in Waterlog distribution: Patti Watson

Cover photo : Sunset on Lake Lanier by Lisa Herndon

Squadron Happenings

2006 CHANGE OF WATCH

The fifty-third Change of Watch for the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron was held 26 February at the Dunwoody Country Club.



P/D/C Bob Leathers receives his 25 year Life Time member award

Everyone enjoyed an elaborate brunch of roast beef and salmon and welcomed the new 2006 Bridge and Executive Committee. Retiring Commander Jeff Wise awarded P/D/C Bob Leathers his Life Membership award for earning 25 merit marks. Senior membership (five merit marks) went to Keith Blanton, Margaret Sherrod, Randy Tahsler and Jeff Wise, while three members, Roy Stegall, Andrew Wilson and Jeff Wise, achieved the Education

Proficiency level (AP rank plus three electives). The prestigious Nelle B. Moon Award for membership involvement went to Mary Stegall for her leadership in Boat Smart and CPR classes. Jeff Wise awarded Carol Jordan, represented by her husband James, the 2006 Commander's Award for her significant contributions to the Squadron. The Chief Commander was represented by Lt/D/C Janis Owen, who awarded ten members the "Power of One" pin for membership enrollment efforts. The new Commander, Margaret Sherrod took her oath of office and swore in her new Bridge. She emphasized her focus on membership involvement for 2006 and expressed her thanks to the earlier commanders who had inspired her.



Cdr Margaret Sherrod takes oath of office administered by Lt/D/C Janis Owen



Cdr Margaret Sherrod takes administers oath of office to 2006 Bridge. L to R: Patti Price-ASEO, Roy Stegall-Secretary, David Herndon-Admin Officer, Sheryl LaBoda-Treasurer, Kevin Schoonover-SEO and Frank Taylor-Exec Officer.



Cdr Margaret Sherrod , Lt/D/C Janis Owen and P/C Jeff Wise



Mary Stegall receives the 2006 Nelle B. Moon award for membership involvement from 2005 winner David Herndon



Members are recognized by the District for their contribution to the Power of One: L to R: Sheryl and Glenn LaBoda, Jim Jordan, Frank Taylor, Lt/D/C Janis Owen, Hans Meier, Margaret Sherrod, Kevin Schoonover, and Ed Troncalli.

Squadron Happenings



EDUCATION UPDATE : CLASSES ARE IN FULL SWING

by Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, Educational Officer

Education is always looking for ways to improve on last year and offer classes that are both interesting and beneficial for our membership. As of this printing, a Chart Smart Course is already in progress for both the public and our members. Besides our regular program of Advanced and Elective courses, future specialty classes are also being planned in CPR/Basic First Aid, Marlinspike Techniques, and Understanding & Using GPS. Of course there will be multiple Boat Smart Programs offered over the year as well.

Assisting me with Education in 2006 will be new ASEO 1st/L Patti Price, AP, and Boat Smart Chairperson Lt Jeff Batson. We would all appreciate any input or suggestions on programs that we can provide.



Advanced Piloting class which is directed by David Sewell and assisted by David Herndon

GREAT SOUTHERN BOAT SHOW 3-5 MARCH

The power squadron needs volunteers to help with the upcoming Great Southern Boat Show located at the North Atlanta Trade Center.

This entails manning the Power Squadron booth for a 2-hour shift where you will talk to boat show visitors and hand out flyers for Boat Smart as well as sharing your boating experiences.

It's really very easy and a great way to get involved in the squadron and the time spent counts toward merit marks.

Boat Smart and the local boat shows are very important to the squadron. We make a lot of contacts with people who eventually become members. To volunteer, contact: Glenn LaBoda, Boat Show Chairman, glaboda@comcast.net



Left: Cruise Planning class under the direction of Bob Ginsberg; Below: Junior Navigation class under the direction of Shelton Sawyer



ADMIN OFFICER'S REPORT A 3,000 MILE CRUISE

Submitted by David Herndon



The March Membership Meeting will be one you won't want to miss. Our own Dr. Mike Schneider will be presenting highlights from his cruise along the coast of Alaska and British Columbia – a cruise that extended for more than 3,000 miles! (And we thought we covered some ground on last year's ICW cruise...)

Those who saw Mike's presentation on his Lake Powell cruise know that we're in for a real treat. You will come away from this session knowing a great deal more about the geography and geology of the northwest, in addition to having the opportunity to view some fantastic scenery and to pick up some useful tips on cruising

Future meetings will feature these guest speakers:

- April—John Calvert, Manager-Harbourtown Yacht Basin
- May—Billy Matthews, Yamaha Motor Corp.
- June—Claiborne Young, Coastal Cruising Guides
- July—Jonathan Davis, Lk Lanier Operations Mgr, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Oct—Eileen Quinn, music for the nautically afflicted



Marine Electronics class under the direction of Ed Troncalli



From the Bridge

THE 2005 BRIDGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005 SQUADRON OFFICERS

Commander	Margaret Sherrod	commander@usps-atlanta.org
Executive Officer	Frank Taylor	xo@usps-atlanta.org
Administrative Officer	David Herndon	admin@usps-atlanta.org
Secretary	Roy Stegall	secretary@usps-atlanta.org
Education Officer	Kevin Schoonover	edu@usps-atlanta.org
Treasurer	Sheryl LaBoda	treasurer@usps-atlanta.org
Assistant Educ Officer	Patti Price	edu@usps-atlanta.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr Margaret Sherrod, Chairman
Lt/C Frank Taylor, Vice Chairman

Bob Leathers	Carol Jordan
Mike Litke	Mary Stegall
Jeff Wise	Doug Watson
Patti Price	Charlie Cox
Tim Tyson	

MEET OUR NEW COMMANDER

(Editor's note: following is an interview with our new commander, Margaret Sherrod, to help you get to know her background and interests. Look for more in-depth interviews of our officers in the future)

How/when did you become interested in boating? As a youngster I was introduced to water-skiing and sailing with my family on our annual spring vacations to Florida and several week-long summer vacations at White Lake in Michigan. As an adult I got reacquainted with sailing in the late 1970s when I took my first introduction to sailing class (the equivalent of ASA or US Sailing Basic Keelboat) at Lanier Sailing Academy. I really got into the sport in the mid-1980s by taking several sailing/educational vacations with ASA-certified sailing schools in Florida and by joining a local sailing club that encouraged non-boat-owners to "come out and crew on other folks' sailboats".

Do you own a boat? I purchased a "project" boat, a 30' sailing sloop (brand is Seafarer 30R), in late 2004. I keep her at Sunrise Cove Marina and her name is *Kristy*.

What other activities do you enjoy doing other than ASPS? I have been an active member of Barefoot Sailing Club since 1989. In/through Barefoot, I was introduced to sailboat racing and lake and bluewater cruising. I have been competitively racing on small sloops (15' through 27'), as crew, for about 18 years. It must have been bred into me since I found out after I started racing that my dad had sailed and raced Lightnings in college. It is still a passion, although I'm not as agile or active as I used to be. I also enjoy assisting with race management, that is conducting the races, particularly major regattas. I serve on my neighborhood association board. I also serve as the chief recording officer for and on the board of my credit union.



Lt/C Frank Taylor
Executive Officer



Cdr. Margaret
Sherrod



Lt/C David Herndon
Administrative Officer



Lt/C Roy Stegall
Secretary



Lt/C Sheryl LaBoda,
Treasurer



Lt/C Kevin Schoonover
Education Officer

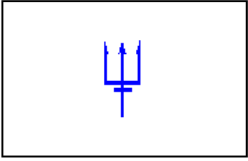


Lt. Patti Price
Assistant Education Officer

Do you have any pets? The week after C.O.W. I pick up my new 8-week old Standard Schnauzer puppy, "Annie". She is a Christmas puppy, born on December 25. She will be the third Standard that I have owned. (I'm a serial pet owner.)

Where were you born/educated? I was born in Muncie, Indiana. I have a BA from Vanderbilt University and MBA from Emory University I'm retired but do some part-time work, from time to time. My working career began at Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a short stop at the Georgia Department of Education when I moved to Atlanta, and progressed on to The Coca-Cola Company.

Squadron Happenings



STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE ICW TRIP

*Submitted by Lt. Carol Jordan,
On-the-Water Activities Chairman*

What better way to spend a cold, bleak, dreary Sat. morning in Feb. than to gather up the boat captains and make plans for our ICW Trip 2006, Sat. May 13- Sat. May 20. As of this date we have 6 or 7 boats for our trip, with an additional 13 crew members. Again, we find ourselves launching from Savannah (once again the Dougherty's will let us park our rigs on their property and use their docks) but heading north this year to Beaufort, SC, then 3 consecutive nights in Charleston, back to Beaufort for an overnight and then home.

Our advance team has scouted out the area to find secured parking for our rigs during the week; made reservations at some nice hotels along the way within easy walking distance of the marina or by courtesy van. Both Beaufort and Charleston are beautiful and offer lots of great things to see and do, with many wonderful restaurants and watering holes along the way. We will be taking some side trips up area rivers to check out the old rice plantations, have lunch at crabshacks along the rivers, take tours, carriage rides, do the trolley, etc. and have lots of fun making memories with old and new boating friends.

If you have a boat or would like to be on one, contact the cruise director Carol Jordan at : otw@usps-atlanta.org

If you can't be on the water, at least be making some plans! See you this May 13 - 20 for our ICW Trip 2006.

THE WATERLOG RECEIVES DISTINCTION IN JOURNALISM AWARD FOR THIRD YEAR

On 6 Feb 2006 P/D/C Jane Sorensen, AP, notified Lt Lisa Herndon, editor of *The Waterlog*, that for the third consecutive year, *The Waterlog* has received



the Distinction in Journalism award. Quoting P/D/C Sorensen's letter: "This award shows cooperation between squadron and editor in an effort to produce a communication tool to keep members informed and motivated, and to encourage a sense of belonging."

LONG DISTANCE TRAILERING OPPORTUNITY

Roy and Mary Stegall are planning a long distance trip aboard "Gideon" in June. They're extending an invitation to other "trailer boaters" who might be interested in joining them.

Their plan is to drive to New York and launch their boat at Morristown, in up-state New York on the St. Lawrence River. They plan to cruise through the Thousand Islands to Kingston, Ontario, and spend several days going up the Rideau Canal towards Ottawa. The Rideau is an 19th century canal with hand-operated locks, passing through Canadian wilderness areas and small villages. It's one of the most scenic areas for small boat cruising in Canada. They won't go

all the way to Ottawa due to time and distance constraints.

The drive to New York is 1,100 miles, and takes 1.7 days. The boating trip from Morristown to Kingston to the Rideau Canal and back will be probably be 6 days. That's a total of 10 days. Alternatively, you can skip Morristown NY and drive directly to Kingston Ontario for a shorter trip. The time frame will be in late June.

"I realize this is a big commitment and it's a very long trip, but I thought I'd share what our plans are," said Roy. "You never know until you ask!"

If you are interested and want more information, contact Roy at secretary@usps-atlanta.org.

Vessel Safety Checks

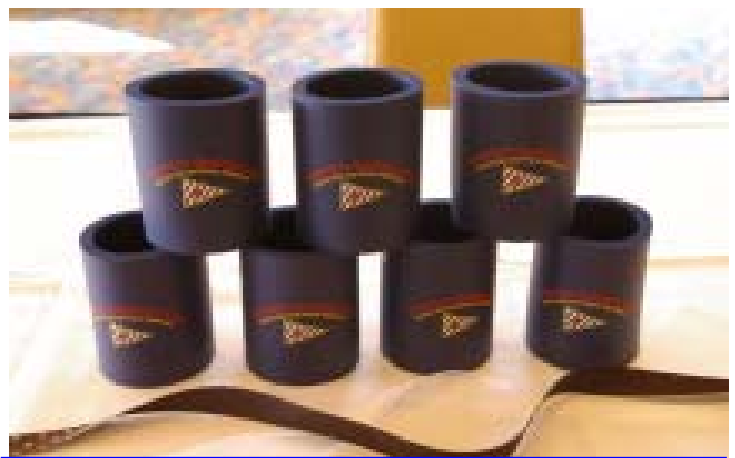
By Lt Doug Watson

Spring is in the air and it's time to get our boats ready for a great season on the water. Our kick off event will be on 25 March at the New Member Orientation at Holiday Marina's Pavilion.

The orientation will be followed by a boat trailering clinic. We encourage our members to bring their boats by trailer or by water to the courtesy dock for a FREE Safety Check in preparation for the 2006 Boating Season.

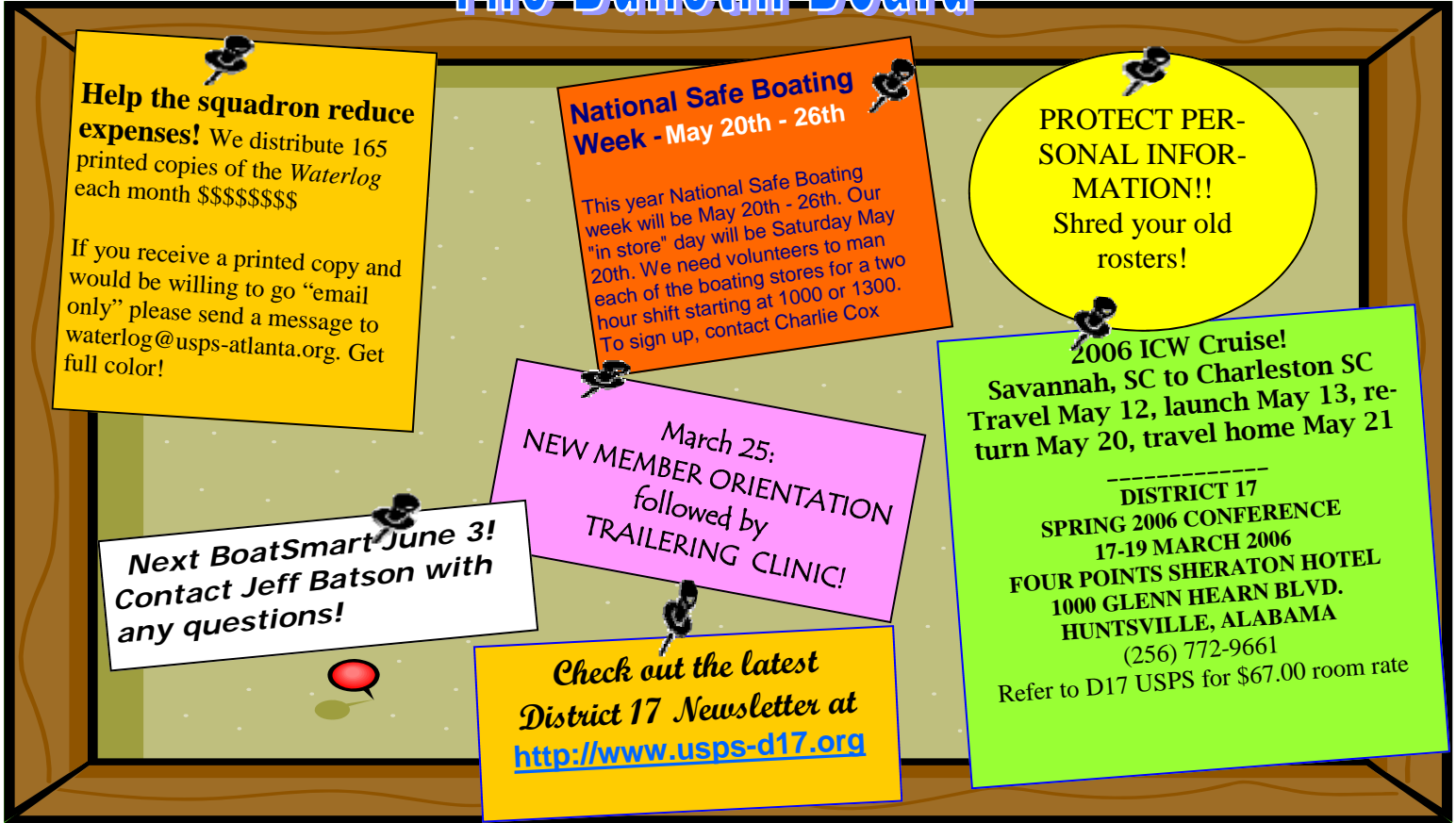
Examiners will be available from noon until all vessels have been checked. If you cannot make this event and would like to have your boat checked please call Doug Watson at vsc@usps-atlanta.org to set up a time.

If you would like to have fun, see a variety of boats, meet great people and help boat owners have a safer boating season, become a VSC examiner. Call Doug for more information at vsc@usps-atlanta.org



ASPS "koozies" were special gifts at the Change of Watch and are waiting for action on the water. Contact Sheryl Laboda if you would like to purchase additional koozies.

The Bulletin Board



USPS EVENTS: MAR 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Boat Show N ATL Trade	4 Boat Show N ATL Trade
5 Boat Show N ATL Trade	6	7	8	9 Excomm Mtg	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Gen'l Members Mtg	17 D17 conference	18 D17 conference
19 D17 conference	20	21	22	23	24	25 New Member orientation/ Trailing
26	27	28	29	30	31	

USPS EVENTS: APR 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Excomm Mtg	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Gen'l Members Mtg	21	22 Raft-up
23	24	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



District News

DISTRICT 17 2006 SPRING CONFERENCE

United States Power Squadrons
 Hosted by the District Meetings Committee
 and the Huntsville Squadron
 The Four Points Sheraton Hotel
 1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd.
 Huntsville, AL 35824
 (256) 772-9661

Meals Reservation Form

Name _____
 (Print) _____
 Spouse/Guest _____
 (Print) _____
 City, State, _____
 Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Friday Night, 17 March 2006

Dinner Buffet -

Mixed Green Salad with Dressings
 Pasta Bar with Sauces
 Garlic Bread
 Coffee, Iced tea

_____ Tickets @ \$12.00 per person \$ _____

Saturday Noon, 18 March 2006

Lunch Served in the Bayou Grille -

“Croissant Special”
 Cold Cuts of Ham and Turkey With Cheeses
 Fresh Fruit Cup
 Coffee, Iced tea

_____ Tickets @ \$9.50 per person \$ _____

Saturday Night, 18 March 2006

“Sit-down” Plated Dinner -

Green Salad with Dressings
 Filet Mignon and Chicken Breast with Wild Rice Pilaf
 Prince William Blend of Vegetables
 Rolls, Butter
 Assorted Desserts
 Coffee, Iced Tea

_____ Tickets @ \$17.00 per person \$ _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

NOTE: All meals are inclusive of tax and gratuity.

**Meal reservations must be received
 no later than 05 March 2006.**

Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee

Mail check and this completed form to :
 Ben Owen, P. O. Box 454; Pell City, AL 35125
 Ben’s E-mail Address: N7LBW@juno.com

Friday, 17 March Dress Casual.

1600-1830 Hospitality Suite Open
 1830-1930 Dinner Buffet (present ticket at door)
 1945-2030 District Conference
 2045-‘till “St. Paddy’s Day and Wearin’ O’ the Green”
 Wear green and bring your own limerick for the limerick contest.

Saturday, 18 March Uniform G for the District Bridge white open-neck, short-sleeved shirt, no tie, long navy or black slacks.) All Other Members: Uniform G optional; comfortable casual clothing.

0800-1000 Registration
 0800-0850 Breakout Sessions

0900-0950 District Council Meeting
 0955-1200 District Conference Convenes
 Plenary Session with V/C Spencer Anderson, SN
 “Town Meeting with Spencer: The Future of USPS Education”

Lunch in the Bayou Grille

Saturday Afternoon Seminars

1400-1450 “Basic DB2000” Kristi Anderson
 “Leadership Development” Spencer Anderson
 “The Panama Canal” Frank Taylor
 1450-1500 Break
 1500-1550 “Boating Class Assistant” Kristi Anderson
 “Recertified Instructors and Teaching Methods” Herman Green
 “Weekend Navigator Excerpts” Jack Cook

1550-1600 Break

1600-1650 “Vessel Safety Checks” Jeff Wise

Dress for Change of Watch: Uniform A for District Bridge.
 All Other Members: Uniform A Optional; Dress Casual with Blazer and Tie.

1650-‘til Dinner Hospitality Suite Open

1900- Dinner

Post Dinner: CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY

Sunday Morning Seminars 19 March

0900-1150 Breakout sessions repeated from Saturday

PLUS: “Setting up a Squadron Website” Jeff Wise

Program/Business Session of the N Club

If you’ve never had a chance to attend a District meeting, give it a try

???FEBRUARY PUZZLER ???

What famous movie had several scenes filmed looking out on ICW marker “231” ? (Hint: the squadron will pass this landmark on the trip in May).

??? JANUARY PUZZLER ???

- January Puzzler - The Science of Boating
1. The positive terminal of a battery is called the anode.
 2. Watts = volts x amps.
 3. The formula for converting Celsius to Fahrenheit is $F = \frac{9}{5} C + 32$
 4. Regions in latitudes 30° N and S with high atmospheric pressure and light winds are called horse latitudes.



Life on the Water

GREETINGS FROM THE GYPSY COMMON

Submitted by Bob & Carolyn Wilson

(Editor's note: Bob and Carolyn are ASPS members living aboard their boat in the Caribbean)



Hello to everyone from Robert & Carolyn Wilson aboard s/v Gypsy Common. We arrived earlier this year and celebrated Christmas in Green Turtle Cay, Abacos and New Years in Marsh Harbour. Although the white sand beaches and crystal clear

water are in sharp contrast

to celebrating the holidays in Atlanta we had a wonderful time sharing with our wonderful cruising friends and the local Bahamians. There are noticeable changes this year -- some of the marinas were destroyed by the recent hurricanes and are being repaired and it seems there are fewer cruisers. Pattie Toler of the Abaco Cruisers Net reported that there were 120,000 boats destroyed by the storms in Florida and that has certainly impacted the number of visiting cruisers.

Carolyn and I have our Island Packet 38 For Sale. After twenty years of sailing, including five years of cruising, we are following the path of least resistance and moving into a trawler. In August we will take delivery of a North Pacific 42 in Vancouver BC, cruise along the BC coast through October and then ship her to Ft. Lauderdale, FL via Dockwise Yacht Transport through the Panama Canal. It is an exciting time for us...new things to learn and new places to travel.

We continue to miss the Fall classes with the USPS and the outings that the Squadron has planned. It seems the Bridge and others continue to work hard to insure that the membership grows and everyone has a wonderful time. Our best to you all.

Robert L. Wilson

Gypsycommon@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~gypsycommon>

Robert, Carolyn & Maggie

s/v Gypsy Common Visit www.cruisingwilson.blogspot.com

THE TEN BIGGEST SURPRISES IN BOATING (For Beginning Boaters)

--Reprinted from *The Fort Walton "Porpoise", District 15, July 2005 Issue. Editor, Carl Hutto, AP*

1. Land is often closer than you think. You may be miles from shore and have solid land only inches away from your keel. Although water gives the appearance of being one big open field upon which you can drive anywhere, there is nasty solid stuff waiting just below the surface

2. Boats don't like water. The worse thing you can do is put one in

water, whereupon it begins corroding and becomes home to the ever-expanding ecosystem. Boats do best in driveways or dusty corners of boatyards.

3. You must learn to tie knots. Someone finally invents Velcro and you have to go back in time to master arts that were already old school to the ancients.

4. You develop a sense of direction. The great thing about boats is they can go anywhere, which is also a problem. On land there are streets; on water you are on your own. Remember how you once laughed at Boy Scouts with their compasses? Well, it's merit badge time!

5. You have more friends than you remembered (or knew) since you bought your boat.

6. The Marine catalog has worked its way to the top of the bathroom reading rack and you know the page number for crimp fittings.

7. Your memory improves. You know where everything is on your 40-footer as well as the boatyard painter's kid's name. Oddly, you still can't find the butter in the refrigerator at home or remember your wedding anniversary date.

8. You discover you are handy. You would never think of rewiring your car or changing the hot water system in your house. But by the second season on your boat, you've become a master plumber and electrician.

9. Nothing for the boat costs less than \$100.00. Ever!

10. You have acquired a new language, although you are still not sure if a head is a room or a bowl.

The biggest surprise, however, is that it is better than you thought it would be. The first time you backed your boat into a slip single-handed with a current and high wind, or popped out of the fog exactly where you thought you'd be, you are a New Person and all the above was worth it!

MARITIME TRIVIA

by Bryan Henry; reprinted from *D17 Files and Profiles*

- From the Greek word for "ships", we have inherited a word that means "illness" but that originally signified seasickness. That word is nausea.
- In sailing parlance, "devil" is not he of the forked tail, but a nautical term for the seam between two planks in the hull of a ship, on or below the waterline. Anyone who had to caulk a "devil" was caught between a rock and a hard place, or between the devil and the deep blue sea.
- The custom of serving a slice of lemon with fish goes back to the Middle Ages. It was believed that if a fish bone were swallowed, the juice from the lemon would dissolve it.
- The claws of the delectable stone crab can exert a pressure of 15,000 pounds per square inch.
- In 16th century France, during the siege of La Rochelle, the Huguenots used oysters as projectiles after their ammunition was depleted.



AFTerthoughts

CHOICES

Recent life events have led me to contemplate the far-reaching effects that the seemingly trivial and private choices we make every day out have on ourselves, on our family and close friends, and even on total strangers. Like the wake our boat makes as it speeds across the glassy smooth lake at sunset, our choices may affect or disturb any number of things that we never see from the helm.

Someone smokes and drinks too much, has a serious heart attack at the age of 48, and impacts four or five families in significant ways. Someone in a position of moral leadership succumbs to temptation, and a large organization suffers because of it. Someone refuses to cower to oppressive laws and bigoted officials, and an entire nation is the better for it.

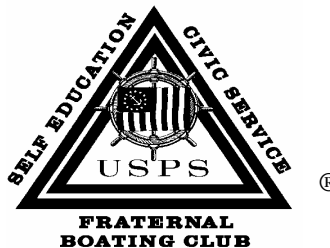
Frank Capra built his classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life" around this theme. In that movie, we follow the life of George Bailey, someone with dreams much bigger than Bedford Falls, the small

town where he lived. At first glance, it appeared that George's life was little more than a series of bad luck episodes. But George is given the unique opportunity to know what life would have been like if he had never lived. From this God's-eye view, we see that the routine daily choices George made from the time he was a young boy had dramatic and positive effects on the entire population of the town and beyond.

As boaters, we must recognize the impact of the choices we make. We have a responsibility to our crew, to our fellow boaters, to the environment and to the society that enables this wonderful privilege. Each time we settle into the captain's chair to start our engines, we should first think through where we're going, how we're going to get there and whether our boat and its crew is properly prepared for the trip. Then, like George Bailey, when the unexpected but inevitable bad luck comes our way, we're better prepared to make good choices.

Happy boating!

Lisa Herndon
Atlanta, GA 30319



STAMP

