

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®

Poseiden is Pleased



Tornados Strike Home

Twenty-one Days
on a Twenty-one Footer



It's About Family

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

Please send comments and suggestions to:-

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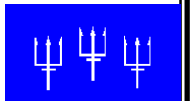


Cover photo : April raft-up, taken by roving Waterlog photographer Mike Guler



Cdr. Margaret Sherrod, JN

Commander's Corner



Let me announce, for those who might not have noticed, the 2006 boating season in Atlanta, Georgia, has officially begun! The Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron, Atlanta's Boating Club, recently held its first raft-up of the season and it was a rousing success. At least 35 members and friends plus several nautically inclined pets shared the afternoon on the twelve boats gathered for our inaugural on-the-water event. There were special ceremonies, complete with offerings of wine and/or champagne, to de-name and rename boats, to christen and name others, and to bless them all! A special thanks is due to our always-unique Master of Ceremonies: Tim Tyson. Check out the pictures of Poseidon – doesn't he look like he really enjoyed the special offerings?

This is only the beginning. Carol Jordan, our Boating Activities chair, and her committee are busily planning other exciting boating events for later this year. Many of these will be on Lake Lanier but there will be several opportunities to trailer your boats to different venues. In less than three weeks, some of us will be trailering boats to Savannah for our annual intracoastal cruise. This year we will cruise from Savannah to Charleston and back on the Intra-Coastal Waterway. Later this summer we plan to trailer boats to Lake Allatoona for a one-day event and to the Tennessee River for a long weekend cruise. There will also be additional opportunities to join other squadrons within District 17 at a "rendezvous", like the Watts Bar Invitational, or a special event, like the Poker Run. Even if you don't have access to a boat locally, you can participate in many of these activities. Just watch for the announcements and respond that you are interested in participating. Or better yet, let Carol know that you are willing to help her organize one of the events.

Our 2006 Roster, including our full-year calendar of events, has been available at membership meetings since the Change of Watch. If you have not yet picked up your copy, you should receive one in the mail within the next month. Take a minute to look over the information we have listed for you. If there are errors, please send your corrections to Roy Stegall, our Secretary, at secretary@usps-atlanta.org so we can update the national database. One of our special initiatives this year is to make sure the national database, the source for our roster, is as accurate as possible and we need your help. Also, there have been several changes to the 2006 calendar from what is published in the Roster. Please update your calendars with the following new dates:

- The Chili Cook-off will be held on Saturday, October 14th at the Dennisson's
- The Fall District 17 Conference will be held November 3rd – 5th
- There will be a membership meeting, featuring Eileen Quinn, on Thursday, November 16th (location to be determined)
- The Annual Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at Kurt's Restaurant

Our member focus over the next few months will be membership meetings and on-the-water activities, with one of each in each month throughout the summer. Our outreach/civic service focus over the next few months will be Vessel Safety Checks and special one-day versions of our Boat Smart program (the first will be on Saturday, June 3rd, at the Aqualand Marina Pavilion). It's a great way for you to introduce your boating friends to our organization or for you to personally become more involved in the squadron. Contact Vessel Safety Chair Doug Watson (vsc@usps-atlanta.org) or Boat Smart Co-Chair Jeff Batson (boatsmart@usps-atlanta.org) if you want to help in either of these activities.

I'm looking forward to sharing a great boating season with you all!

Margaret

Squadron Happenings

IT'S RAFT-UP TIME!

The squadron began the season on Saturday April 22 with 12 boats and 34 members and guests participating. Early morning rain gave way to sunshine and light clouds and though the water was chilly, a few brave souls took the plunge to check out this season's swimming conditions. The raft-up was highlighted by a "first annual naming and re-naming" ceremony, presided over by none other than

Poseiden (aka Tim Tyson) himself. Bells ringing and lots of toasts assured the blessing of the newly renamed *Celestine* and *Changes in L'Attitude*, and newly (or not so newly) named vessels *Arrimage*, *Regal Lady*, *Sea Trek*, *JAV Team* and *Wind Dragon*. Poseiden oversaw a blessing of the entire fleet for the 2006 boating season.



Anne Batson and Jeff Batson offer toasts as Poseiden oversees the renaming of their boat, Celestine



The squadron toasts the newly named and renamed boats in the fleet

AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY....

Five boats stayed overnight at the recent raft-up and the squadron showed its true essence when *La Vita Dolce* refused to crank on Sunday morning. Doug and Patti Watson were

taxied to their dock aboard *Changes in L'Attitude* in order to attend their grandchildren's baptisms, while Captains Ed Troncalli, Mike Litke and Jeff Batson and crews brought the ailing *La Vita Dolce* back to her dock in an impressive towing and four-boat-docking maneuver. The good news is all is well with *La Vita Dolce*. The better news is that in the squadron there are always wonderful, experienced people there to lend a hand when you need it.



Captains Jeff Batson (far left aboard Celestine) and Ed and Genie Troncalli (aboard SeaTrek) tow La Vita Dolce back to her dock while Mike and Tamie Litke (aboard Play N Hooky) maneuver lines for a four boat turn into the dock.



La Vita Dolce is eased into her dock for further inspection.



Leslie Whitener, dockmaster at Hilton Head's Harbourtown Marina, spoke about marina operations and answered questions at the April general membership meeting. John Calvert, a member of ASPS, is now the owner and manager of the Harbourtown facilities

Squadron Happenings

The Safety Net

By Safety Officer Charlie Cox

(Editor's note: not that anyone in our squadron would need this, but just as a refresher...) As a reminder for the ICW trip, do not approach within 100 yards of any U.S. Navy vessel. If you need to pass within 100 yards of a U.S. Navy



vessel in order to ensure a safe passage in accordance with the Navigation Rules, you must contact the U.S. Navy vessel or the Coast Guard escort vessel on VHF-FM channel 16. You must operate at minimum speed within 500 yards of any U.S. Navy vessel and proceed as directed by the Commanding Officer of the official patrol. Violations of the Naval Vessel Protection Zone are a felony offense, punishable by up to 6 years in prison and/or up to \$250,000 in fines.

DON'T MISS CLAIBORNE YOUNG IN JUNE

Claiborne Young, author of many coastal cruising guides, will be the speaker at the membership meeting on June 15th. Check out his website **Salty Southeast Cruiser's Net**, which has just added a new feature to a growing array of FREE services. Now visitors to <http://www.CruisersNet.net> can access a full page of active links to coastal webcams, ranging from North Carolina to Florida. To access the Coastal Webcam page, go to <http://www.CruisersNet.net>, and look down the navigational buttons along the left side of the page. Under the "Other Helpful Links" section, you will see the button for "Coastal Webcams." Just click on this link, and once the Coastal Webcams page appears, scroll down to the waters of interest to you. You will quickly discover that the coastal webcams are listed in geographic order, moving north to south, from North Carolina to Florida.



MESSAGE FROM D17 COMMANDER

By Tom Carey, Commander

Fellow members of District 17, as I take the helm of our district this year, I am humbled by the confidence you have shown in selecting me as your commander. When I joined USPS seventeen years ago and signed up for my first education class, I never dreamed that one day I would be elected Commander of such a distinguished group.

The years have been good to District 17. We have gained members and lost members. Some of our dearest friends have crossed the bar. We have gained squadrons and we have lost squadrons. We have seen our education program come of age with new technology. Many of the improvements, if not all, have made us better members. Through it all, we have persevered, we have grown stronger, we have grown bolder, we have grown closer together and will be friends for a lifetime.

As we begin our journey through this next year, let's consider some items we would like to accomplish, not the over used "goals" or the inappropriate "quotas" (words which conjure up feelings of pressure to perform and consequences of punishment if not completed) but the more user-friendly terms of "items" or

"accomplishments". We will begin and continue to use terms that bring positive images of fulfillment and completion. C/C Marshburn has asked all districts and squadrons to increase their membership by a net of 1%. For District 17, with a membership of 992, that means a net increase of 10 members next year. That is less than one member per squadron. D17, along with only one other District, D16, had a net increase in membership from 2004 to 2005. We can do it again! He has also asked each district to add one more squadron next year. As you all know establishing a squadron is no easy or quick task, but we can do our best to (at the very least) lay the ground work for a new squadron. Huntsville Squadron has already started this in the Tri-Cities area.

In summation, let's work together to make District 17 the best it can be. Let's work to make our Squadrons the envy of USPS and the boating community. And now, taking the last line from our utility pledge, "always remembering that this is a fellowship organization, dedicated to the advancement of boating and the self-education of members". Thank you again; I'll see all of you in Birmingham in November.

2006-2007 DISTRICT 17 COMMANDER AND BRIDGE



(l-r) D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN – Executive Officer

D/C Tom Carey, SN – Commander

D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN –Administrative Officer (from ASPs)

D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP – Secretary

P/D/C Jack Cook, SN – Education Officer

(Absent) D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP - Treasurer

???MARCH PUZZLER ANSWER ???

You are cruising at 2/3rd throttle in your 24' Cuddy-cabin and spot flotsam directly in the boat's path. You should : (A) turn away from it; (B) turn towards it and then turn away; or (C.) turn away and then turn towards it?

???APRIL PUZZLER ???

Seasickness—the landlubber's curse. Which of the many touted remedies allegedly works for one-third of all sufferers? Removing your (1) shoes, (2) wrist-watch or your (3) sunglasses.



From the Bridge

THE 2006 BRIDGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2006

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 THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C David Herndon

(Editor's note: The Administrative Officer is responsible for the internal activities of the squadron, including general membership speakers, membership involvement, operations training, on-the water and social events.)

How/when did you become interested in boating? I grew up on the Green River in western KY. When I was about 12, I helped my uncle build a little wooden runabout. When I left for college, I didn't have much contact with boats for several years. Then I met Lisa. Marrying into the Parsons family is a lot like joining the Navy. Her parents and 2 brothers owned a total of 9 boats among them. *(Editor's note: Dave exaggerates a little... he included every john boat and paddleboat around....)* I had the choice of getting interested in boats or spending a lot of time alone. I think I made the right choice.



Do you own a boat? We own *Changes in L'Attitude*, a 26-ft cruiser docked on Lake Lanier, and we share the use of the flagship of the Parsons fleet that is usually docked in coastal S.C.

What other activities do you enjoy doing other than ASPS? Lisa and I are active in our church, both as leaders of various activities and in the music program. ASPS, church activities, a demanding job and two daughters in college pretty much fill up my days.

Tell us about your family and pets? My family consists of my two daughters, Laura (22) and Sarah (20), my mother and a younger brother in western KY and a sister in the Annapolis area. Lisa and I have a pet alien creature whose earthly form resembles a Persian cat.

Where were you born/educated/ work? I was born and grew up in western KY, "down by the Green River where Paradise lay" as John Prine described it.



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

I have a BA in Math from the University of KY, an MBA from the University of Louisville, and a Certificate of Professional Development from the Wharton School at the University of PA. I am now Director-Network Policy at Cingular Wireless national headquarters.

EDUCATION UPDATE

By Kevin Schoonover, Education Officer

Several people have mentioned that they never received their completion stickers for classes that they had passed. If anyone failed to receive a certificate or sticker, please let me know at edu@usps-atlanta.org and I will place a volume order. We'll have lots of graduates and news to tell you about in next month's *Waterlog!*



Life on the Water

UPDATED GPS DATA AVAILABLE

By Douglas Townes

Hopefully all of you are aware of the free Lake Lanier charts that are available on the Army Corps of Engineer's web site. If not, I highly recommend you visit and bookmark this site:

<http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/MapRoom.htm>

These charts are different from those that you get at a marine store or from a nautical chart web site. These charts are updated with details by the Corps. Since all buoys, ramps, campgrounds and fish attractors must be permitted by the Corp, the location of these features must be located accurately on State survey maps. Just last month, the Corps found a way to post these locations and share them with the boating public. The news is even better. Not only are the coordinates now posted on the Corps web site but a free software program to load them onto your computer and GPS was posted too. As you review the Corps web page, note the addition of new wording at the bottom:

GPS Files for Download to your GPS (.gpx file format)

Directions: click a link below and save the .zip file to your computer. Use a zip utility like [7-zip](#) or [WinZip](#) to extract the .gpx file. Open the .gpx file with your GPS management software and transfer to your GPS unit.

Downriver Signs- warning signs between Buford Dam and GA Hwy 20** Download: [DownriverSigns.zip](#)

Boat Ramps- locations of Corps boats ramps on Lake Lanier . Download: [LanierBoatRamps.zip](#) or a [printable list](#) of coordinates and waypoints.

Fish Attractors- locations of approved fish attractors on Lake Lanier. Download: [LanierFishAttractors.zip](#) or a [printable list](#) of coordinates and waypoints.

Useful links:

[EasyGPS](#)- GPS management software, create .gpx or .loc files

[OziExplorer](#)- GPS Mapping Software for Magellan, Garmin, Lowrance, Eagle, MLR Receivers; will convert .shp to .gpx

[CorpsCon](#)- program to convert between practically *any* known coordinate system.

This information was just posted last month. The first tool I want to point out on this page is "EASYGPS". You can download a free copy of EASYGPS (<http://www.easygps.com/>). This is the most useful "free" software to come into the GPS community in several years. For the first time, users have the capability to download GPS waypoints into our own files, share them with others and upload them to another GPS. I no longer am "tethered" to the manufacturer's factory or web site to do this for me.

The first thing I did when I installed EASYGPS was download all of my waypoints (all 300 of them) and safely store them on a disc and on my laptop. For years I had been worrying about losing my GPS, getting it waterlogged or electrically "fried" then losing all those

years of waypoints. Now my waypoints are safely stored on 2 computers, 2 GPS's and one disc. This information was shared and demonstrated in the Marine Electronics class last month. Send me an e-mail if you have any problems downloading EASYGPS or downloading your waypoints.

Now that you have EASYGPS loaded on your computer, take a look at the second great feature that the Corps is sharing with us. The Corps has put up all of their downriver signs, boat ramps and fish attractor GPS files for the public to copy. I downloaded all of this information to my computer and one of my GPSs. While USPS members may not need all 37 boat ramp locations, the downriver daymarks and buoys are very useful safety information and everyone could probably use the fish attractor sites locations. These GPS locations will allow us to navigate Lake Lanier more accurately, describe a buoy that might be off position and give directions to the closest boat ramp in case of a medical emergency. If you are a fisherman, you can impress your landlubber friends by clandestinely showing up at the fish attractor sites (along with 20 or 30 of your other closest fishing buddies).

After loading this information to your computer and GPS, you should compare your current map software to this new information. You may begin to notice some amazing inaccuracies. One boat ramp that I checked had the Corps ramp located on the shore while the map software had the ramp location in a picnic area 300 feet away! You should trust the Corps data. Let me say that one more time: **You should trust the Corps data.** "Why" you ask? Unlike the "recreational" GPS that you and I use, the Corps uses equipment that is similar to what surveyors and other government agencies use. The DGPS signal that these units receive comes from a more local source. The GPS coordinates that are posted on the Corps site are accurate within 3 feet! Feel free to forward this info on to anyone that could use this information. Remember, "**Safe boating knowledge is not a destination... it is a journey.**"

PARK CLOSINGS ANNOUNCED

FOR LANIER, ALLATOONA FOR 2006

excerpts from article by Pamela A. Keene

Because of recent budget cuts, the US Army Corps of Engineers has announced the temporary closings of several parks on Lake Lanier and Allatoona Lake. Budgets at many projects were cut by at least 10 percent. At Lanier three campgrounds and five day-use areas will be affected. Shady Grove Campground, Bolding Mill Campground and Chestnut Ridge Campground will be closed entirely. Day use parks impacted at Lanier include Upper Overlook Park, which will be totally closed. The picnic areas at Mountain View Park, Wahoo Creek Park and Robinson Park will be closed, but the boat ramps will remain open. Additionally, Buford Dam Park will be operated only Thursday through Sunday. Municipal governments have leased several corps' parks. Lanier's one-dozen-plus leased parks include Mary Alice, Clarks Bridge, War Hill, Young Deer, and Laurel Park. Lake Lanier Islands is also leased. Operation dates for all Corps parks at Lanier can be viewed at

<http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/ParkSchedule.htm>.



Life on the Water

TORNADOS HIT GEORGIA

By Carol Jordan



Carol and James Jordan's boat, *Regal Lady*, narrowly escaped damage when storms ripped through Aqualand Marina

In early April four tornados tore through north Georgia, leaving millions of dollars of damage, including significant wind damage to docks and boats at Lake Lanier's Aqualand Marina. What is so amazing is that the first quarter of the "N" dock closest to the shore received all of the damage; the last three-fourths of the dock was virtually untouched; although the entire dock was pulled from its moorings and drifted over into "O" dock. However, over on "M" dock, the wind tore off the roof, twisted girders and left finger docks standing straight up in the air. It looked like mating season for a couple of pontoon boats!

USPS BOAT INSURANCE UPDATE

Bennett (Ben) Gilbert, Marine Manager
USPS Boat Insurance

We would like to thank those members who have accepted our invitation to call USPS Boat Insurance to discuss the insurance options available to them for boats located in counties affected by St. Paul's revised underwriting guidelines. We hope that we were able to help each of you with a satisfactory solution.

Secondly, we at McGriff, Seibels and Williams are pleased to announce the appointment of a new carrier that will help to alleviate the impact of St. Paul's restrictions outlined in the April edition of Ensign Magazine. Zurich American Insurance Co. (A-rated by AM Best), offers another option to USPS Boat Insurance customers in the affected counties. While all vessels are still subject to underwriting guidelines, Zurich does not have age, hull value or length restrictions in coastal counties, as does St. Paul. However, like many marine insurance carriers, Zurich has reached full capacity in the state of Florida for 2006, meaning they will not offer any new quotes in the state regardless of age, length or value of vessel. While Zurich and many of our other carriers offer discounts for USPS membership and captain's licenses, binding coverage with any carrier other than St. Paul will place members out of the USPS Boat Insurance Program meaning there will be no additional premium discounts for completion of USPS safety courses.

With this in mind, we have several A-rated insurance options available to USPS members, and we strongly encourage all members to call to discuss these options. Zurich will provide yet another carrier

that is able to quote business in AL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC and TX. And as a reminder, all policies can remain in force with St. Paul under certain provisions. We understand that this is not a cure-all. We value your business and our long-standing relationship with USPS, and hope that we can help the majority of affected members to make a difference. We strongly encourage all members to call (800) 763-USPS to discuss your options

ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

By Frank Taylor

Just like any new boat owner, I was excited when I bought my new boat four years ago. I looked forward to being out on the water as much as I could. I imagined entertaining friends and family, swimming, and sleeping on the best "waterbed" that the world has to offer.

I bought the boat at the Atlanta Boat Show in January 2002 and planned to put her in the water in March. I couldn't wait!! For weeks after the purchase of *MissVonn*, I constantly talked about her. I would meet strangers and start talking about my boat and what adventures I was going to have. I remember meeting a lady at work who owned three boats. She was a student in one of the classes I was teaching. We struck up a conversation and I asked questions and told her of my planned adventures. When I was done, she said, "You forgot one thing." "What?" I asked. "You're going to have a whole new family," she replied. "You'll meet people on the dock. You'll meet people on the water, and they will become like family."

I've never forgotten what she told me, and from time to time, I think about her words. There are moments when I am reminded that she was right. The ICW trip and the Tennessee River trip both felt like big family vacations. The raft-ups and cookouts remind me of family picnics.

The latest reminder, however, was just recently when we experienced some serious weather here in the Atlanta area. I was out of town and woke up on a Saturday morning around 8 am to find that there were 5 messages on my cell phone. All of the messages were from different individuals, but they all said basically the same thing: "I heard what happened at the lake. Is your boat okay?" Needless to say, I was a bit concerned. I spent the next hour making phone calls and checking the internet trying to find out what was going on. As it turns out, severe storms had taken out my dock and the dock next to it. What was even worse was that several boats had been damaged. My heart sank and my mouth got dry. Was *Miss Vonn* okay?

Thanks to my boating family, I didn't have to worry long. By noon, I had gotten reports from several individuals that she was okay. It was impossible to get to her, but from a distance, she still looked to be in her slip and fully intact. Thanks to James and Carol Jordan, by 3 pm, I was actually using my laptop to view pictures of the docks and of my boat proving she was okay. The best part is that all of these reports came voluntarily. I never had to ask for them.

So, the next time you see a statistic that says boating is the number one family activity, keep in mind that it may also be the best way to extend your family as well.



Life on the Water

TWENTY-ONE DAYS AT SEA IN A TWENTY-ONE FOOT VENTURE

By Bill Gruber

"Help..." Across the dark waters of Biscayne Bay, we heard it again. "Help!" As I brought *La Paloma's* bow around to bear n the faint cry of distress. I thought to myself, "what an ominous way to begin an ocean voyage..." It was 11:15 p.m., August 1st. We were leaving Biscayne Channel bound for the Bahamas. Buoy 3 had disappeared behind us. Buoy 2 lay dead ahead and beyond the blinking light of Boy 1, the open ocean waited. As we settled on our new course, I glanced once more at the chart to fix our change in direction. Ahead our searchlight swept left and right. Nothing. Then we heard it again, louder this time. "A little more to port," Randy called from the forestay. Then it appeared, gradually taking shape, an 18 foot Thunderbird outboard. I slowed the *La Paloma*, then reversed engine for a moment, finally shifting to neutral as we neared the boatload of anxious faces blinking up at our spotlight. "Boy! Are we glad you heard us. We've been stranded here since 3 o'clock this afternoon," a voice said. There were four adults and three children aboard. It seems their engine had caught fire and the resultant explosion had blown the cowling off. Fortunately, they had had a fire extinguisher handy and no one was injured. We called Miami Coast Guard on *La Paloma's* latest acquisition, a VHF-FM Radiotelephone purchased just a week prior to departure. Soon, a small CG launch arrived on the scene followed shortly by a forty-foot cutter. As the disabled Thunderbird was being taken in tow, we hauled anchor and once again headed out to sea.

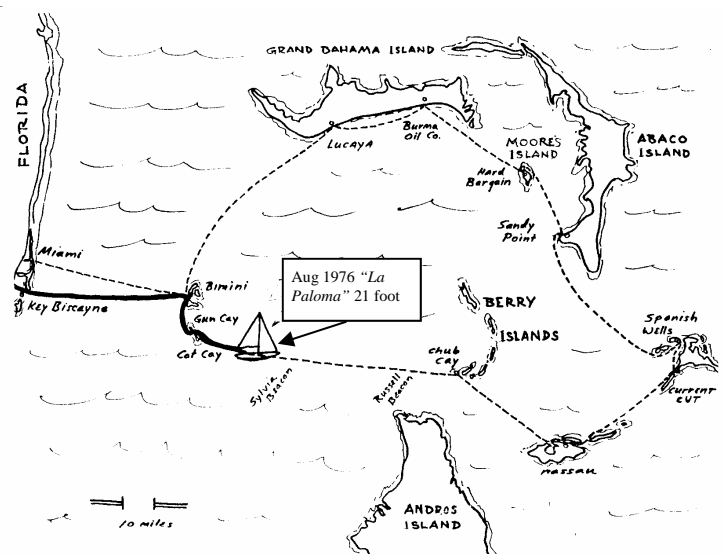
The run across the Gulf Stream that night was uneventful, unless you count watching your nephew curled up in sleep while an eighth inch of fiberglass at his shoulder pushes aside the foaming Atlantic. Shortly after sunrise, we sighted Bimini. Just as we were threading our way cautiously over the underwater reef on the recommended 103 degree bearing, we were attacked by a flotilla of deep-sea cruisers. One after another, they roared past. Poor *La Paloma* bobbed like a cork in their heaving wake. Somewhat unnerved by such a robust welcome, we ran our yellow dishtowel up the starboard spreader and entered the harbor. Clearing customs, we discovered we had chosen Emancipation Day, one of the eleven legal holidays, for our arrival in the Bahamas. The freeing of the slaves cost us ten dollars.

Leroy, the conch fisherman I had shared a bottle of Jamaican Rum with on my last visit to Bimini, met us as we beached in front of the Moon Glow night club. Alfred Rolled smiled in welcome as I entered his shop where he makes jewelry boxes out of sea shells. Adam Clayton Powell gazed majestically from his portrait enshrined behind the bar as we had a glass of Tia Maria, waiting for the boat's battery to be recharged. Later in the afternoon, we said goodbye to our friends in Bimini and set a course for Gun Cay, nine miles south.

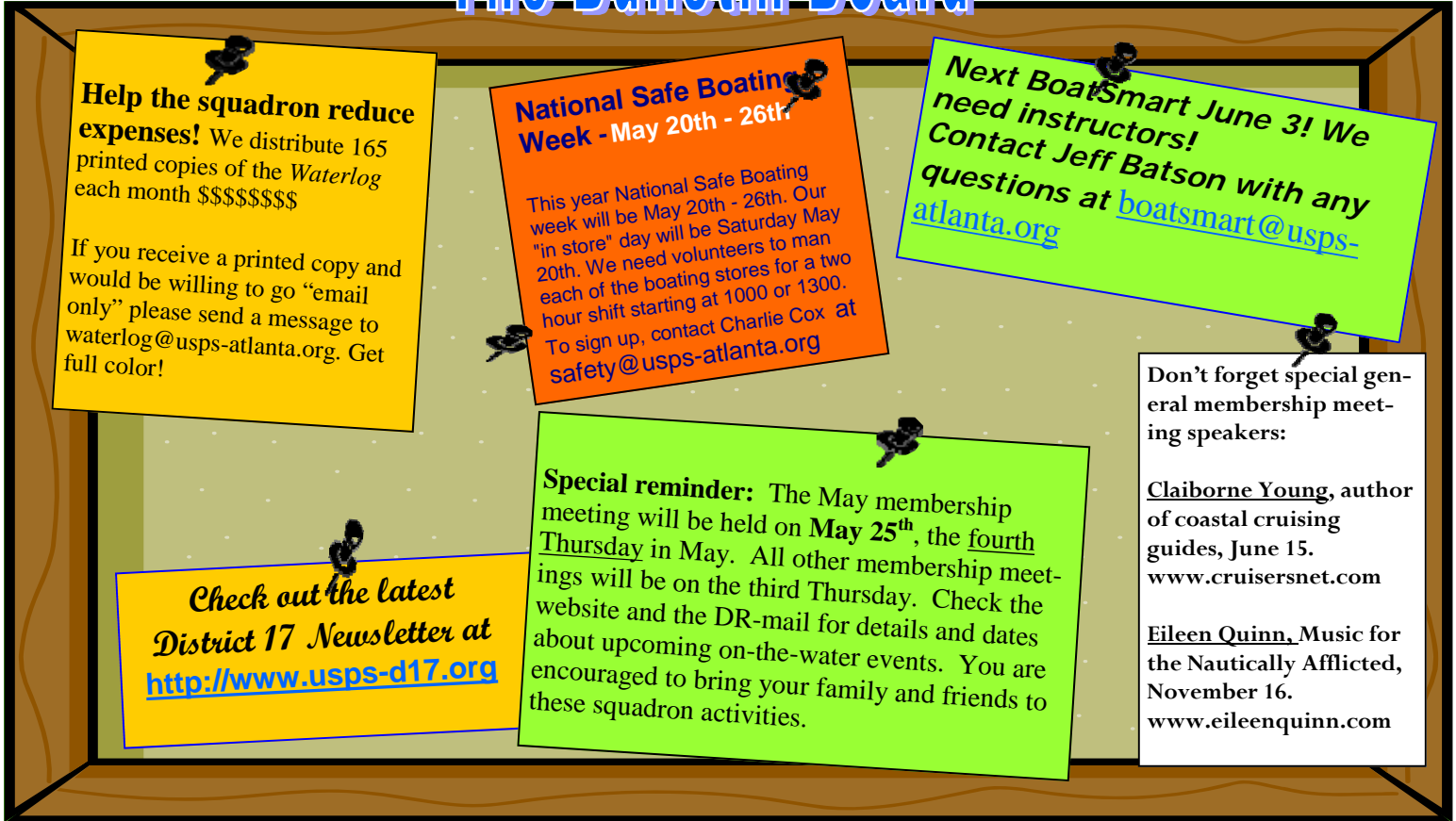
There we executed the maneuver so eloquently described in the Yachtsman's Guide..."run in *close* to the rocks under the tower, then turn to starboard, keeping the cliffs, still *close* aboard and round the southern point as *closely* as possible. Stand up the East coast still *close* in until the tower bears N.W." It was all those "closes's" that had me worried. We sighted the tower and headed in toward it. The

waves were lashing at the rocks beneath the twoer as it loomed nearer and nearer. "Not yet...not yet... not yet," I chanted in what I hoped was a steady, seamanlinke tone of voice, certain to instill confidence in the helmsman's hand while trying to ignore the jutting cliff now towering higher than the mast directly before us. "Now!" I shouted. The bow careened madly over to the right. Wet rock blurred past like a badly taken home movie. Then, suddenly, we were clear and running parallel to the shore. I'll never forget that approach to Gun Cay Light House.

We were unable to refuel at Cat Cay later that afternoon. Their gasoline storage tanks indicated water contamination. This posed a problem since our next intended port-of-call, Chub Cay, lay 86 miles away. Our cruising range under power with a nine gallon capacity was only 75 miles. Some of that we had already consumed leaving Bimini and entering Cat. Cay. Hoping the wind would be favorable, we decided to try it anyway. After a long port tack, we came about only to discover that the wind had shifted to the SE, forcing us to spend an unusual amount of time returning practically to where we'd begun. As night closed in, we had only gotten as far as Sylvia Beacon. To make matters worse, a squall had set in and the *La Paloma*, her mast bare, pitched and bobbed at her anchor line the whole night long. With the morning sun, however, the skies cleared, the wind moved South, giving us a beam reach, and under full sail, we raced eagerly over the shallow waters of the Great Bahama Bank. We took turns, standing on the bow, marveling at the endless panorama that the clear shallow water afforded us of the ocean floor as it glided along 12 feet beneath our keel. *To be continued.....*



The Bulletin Board



USPS EVENTS: MAY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Ex-comm Mtg	12 ICW Cruise	13 ICW Cruise
14 ICW Cruise	15 ICW Cruise	16 ICW Cruise	17 ICW Cruise	18 ICW Cruise	19 ICW Cruise	20 ICW Cruise Safe Boat Wk
21 ICW Cruise Safe Boat Wk	22 Safe Boat Wk	23 Safe Boat Wk	24 Safe Boat Wk	25 Gen'l Members Mtg -Safe Boat Wk	26 Safe Boat Wk	27 Safe Boat Wk
28	29	30	31			

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

USPS EVENTS: JUNE 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Excomm Mtg	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 General Membership Mtg	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Raft-up & Cardboard boat race
25	26	27	28	29	30	



AFTerthoughts

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Previously in this issue, you read a report of assistance rendered at the recent raft-up and Frank Taylor's excellent essay on the new family we acquire when we become serious boaters. Family is a good analogy for the camaraderie that we build in the boating community. Individuals and couples who may have little, if anything, else in common become fast friends while rafting up, troubleshooting engine problems, taking boating classes, or just hanging out at the dock.

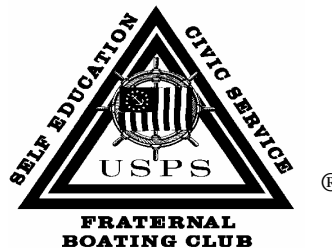
That was evident at the last raft-up. Thirty-four people arrived on 12 boats, but they certainly didn't stay on the boats that brought them. Everyone spent a wonderful afternoon crossing from boat to boat and back again visiting, catching up and just enjoying one another's

company. It reminded me of those family reunions we used to have when I was a kid - except I don't recall Poseidon showing up at any of our reunions. Although now that I think about it, great-uncle Jed did bear a strong resemblance.

The family spirit was certainly evident in the two accounts of fellow boaters needing help. Concern about the Jordan's and the Taylor's boats and the help given to the Watson's is really a family dynamic on display. The most compelling aspect of these stories is that no one even thought twice about pitching in to do whatever they could to help. I am hard pressed to think of any other social organization who would be more like family.

Happy boating!

Lisa Herndon
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